

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS

THIRD SERIES

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The Four Courts, Dublin

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JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE *of* BRITISH ARCHITECTS

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Journal

THE CONFERENCE

Some people like reading speeches, some do not. This JOURNAL will be a grand feast for the former but poor fun for the latter. A conference naturally has a lot of speechmaking, even if speechmaking or listening to speeches is not the central purpose of it which brought over one hundred and ten people across the Irish Sea. There were twelve members of the R.I.B.A. Council present and seven representatives of trans-oceanic dominions in a conference the total membership of which exceeded three hundred and forty. In every way it was one of the biggest and best conferences there has been and was in every way worthy of the precedents established by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland themselves in 1931.

MR. GOODHART-RENDEL'S PARTY

The party which Mr. Goodhart-Rendel gave on 8 July to R.I.B.A. members of the Council, committees and staff, was a fitting ending to his term of presidency. Nothing could have been more graciously done; the President had brought together something to delight all the senses of all his guests: Georgian Hatchlands itself, with the gilded dolphins and seahorses of Admiral Boscowan, its builder, frolicking in their Adam ceilings; chamber music, heard as it should be heard, and played, what is more, by the International String Quartet; for our noses, Hatchlands flowers and the smell of the country after rain; and for our palates, strawberries and cream and raspberries and cream, and iced coffee that out-creamed any that has ever been made.

Those who went (and there were over three hundred of them) must be extremely grateful to Mr. Goodhart-Rendel for such marvellous entertainment.

EXHIBITION OF ARCHITECTS' WORKING DRAWINGS

Every year the Board of Architectural Education arranges an Exhibition of architects' working drawings,

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which is held first at the R.I.B.A. and then at schools throughout the country. The purpose of the exhibition is to show students the kind of drawings that are being turned out by some of the best offices in the ordinary course of office routine: the drawings which they would give to the contractor. The show not only illustrates contemporary drawing office technique, but gives students a good idea of the quantity of work that must be done by an office to produce a building.

The next of these exhibitions will be from 17 to 28 July inclusive, when drawings from the following offices will be shown:—

Messrs. James & Bywaters & Rowland Pierce [FF.] (Norwich Town Hall); *Mr. A. B. Knapp-Fisher* [F.] (Church of St. Francis of Assisi, Ruxley Lane, Ewell, Surrey); *Messrs. Stanley Hall & Easton and Robertson* [FF.] (The Research Laboratory of the Metropolitan Water Board); *Mr. Charles Holden* [F.] (London Passenger Transport Board, Arncliffe Grove Station, Piccadilly Line); *Mr. T. S. Tait* [F.] (The Glasgow Exhibition); *Mr. J. Hubert Worthington* [F.] (St. Catherine's College, Oxford).

A special Students' Evening will be held at the Exhibition on Wednesday, 19 July, at 8 p.m. All students are cordially invited to attend. It is hoped that the architects who have lent exhibits, or their representatives, will be present to explain the drawings to the students. Refreshments will be provided, and no cards of admission are required.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE DANCE CLUB

Members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting of the R.I.B.A. Dance Club will be held on Thursday, 20 July, at 5.30 p.m.

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF ARCHITECT-MEMBERS OF PANELS

The Council have authorised the publication of the following :

The system of Advisory Panels set up under the joint auspices of the R.I.B.A., the C.P.R.E., and the Institute of Builders has now been in operation for more than five years. Panels have been established in a large number of districts, and, in general, are working satisfactorily and with good effect. They are primarily concerned with advising local authorities in their control of the "size, height, design and external appearance" of buildings under the Town and Country Planning Act, with the broad object of promoting good design and preventing the poor and unsightly building which has done so much in many places to spoil the appearance of both town and country.

It is not, of course, the function of an Advisory Panel to be an arbiter as between one architectural style and another, or to pronounce on matters of detail about which professional men are bound to hold widely varying views. The Panel's function is essentially to prevent the erection of buildings, chiefly small houses, which would disfigure an urban background or country landscape. There is such a large field open for improvement of standards, and for education of the speculative builder and the house-purchasing public, as to afford ample scope for the operations of the Panels, without their being involved in controversies as between one school of architectural design and another. Indeed, it is believed that in the public interest, and for the good of the profession, such controversies are undesirable, and may be actually harmful.

This being made clear, it should not, however, be assumed that a Panel should feel precluded from expressing an opinion on plans submitted by architects as well as by builders, but only that in so doing they should be guided solely by the suitability or otherwise of the design for a particular site or locality. It would be a mistaken policy, which would certainly entail adverse comment, if the Panel only reviewed plans submitted by builders.

Another point on which the Panel should be clear is that it is not their function to re-design proposals submitted. They will give direction as to what amendments are necessary, illustrating these, if need be, by rough sketches, and if the design is so poor as to be incapable of amendment without fundamental alteration, then the Panel's recommendation to the Council should be that new plans should be submitted on the lines indicated. The Planning Officer, or Council official, who communicates the Council's decision to the submitter of the plans, can often perform a useful service by suggesting to a builder that he should engage an architect to prepare proper plans for him that will be likely to satisfy the requirements of the Panel—

instead of merely re-submitting a slightly altered version of his own.

It is very desirable that, when a plan has been submitted by or bears the name of an architect and has been referred to a Panel by the planning authority, any objection to or criticism of the design by the Panel should, subject to the permission of the planning authority, be communicated to the architect concerned before the authority makes its formal decision. If this is done, adjustments meeting the Panel's criticism can often be agreed with a minimum of trouble and without any loss of time. *In any case it is most important that the authority's decision should be communicated in the first instance to the architect, rather than to the building owner or builder.* Cases have arisen in which unfortunate repercussions have occurred from the Panel's decision being communicated direct to the building owner without the architect's knowledge; indeed, in a particularly regrettable instance, without the architect being even aware that his plans would be perused by a Panel. The Code of Professional Practice which is binding on members of the R.I.B.A. should always be borne in mind when members of the Panel are concerned with the work of another architect.

Above everything, a broad-minded approach to design problems and the exercise of tact and good feeling are valuable assets in the successful operation of the Panel. The method is an experimental one, and the conditions differ between districts. Bearing in mind, however, that the chief objective is the avoidance of slatternly and ignorant design of small buildings, the improvement in the standard of which can do so much to make town and country planning really effective, the architectural profession has a unique opportunity through the Panels of rendering great service to the community.

THE KING VISITS R.I.B.A. EXHIBITION

The Modern Schools Exhibition, specially rearranged and augmented, was on view at the Centenary Show of the Royal Agricultural Society recently held at Windsor. During their tour of the Show the King and Queen inspected the Exhibition. Their Majesties were received by Mr. R. A. Duncan, Chairman of the Modern Schools Exhibition Committee. The King was very interested in the buildings illustrated, asking numerous questions. It was clear that he had a wide knowledge of school building policy as well as of technical requirements. This was the first occasion on which an R.I.B.A. Exhibition has been inspected by the Sovereign.

REGISTRATION

Members who are qualified for registration and have not already done so are reminded of the importance of applying for such registration without delay. Full particulars will be sent on application to the Secretary R.I.B.A.



The Lord Mayor, Mr. De Valera, Mrs. J. J. Robinson, Mr. J. J. Robinson

THE CONFERENCE

The best thing about a Dublin conference, at least for an Englishman who has never been there before, is the opportunity it gives for proof that all the good things that have ever been said about the Irish are true. Certainly the architects of Dublin used the occasion of their centenary to entertain well over a hundred visitors from England, Scotland and Wales, and from most distant parts of the British Empire, so handsomely that the central point of any report of the conference must be a matter of thanks to them.

These architects' conferences never make much show with the reading of papers, so that the inclusion in the programme of a special meeting at which Mr. C. H. Aslin discussed the work of official architects was an innovation made out of respect to the prominent place which that subject now takes in professional affairs. It was an innovation which fully justified itself and Mr. Aslin's clear exposition of the place and opportunities of official architects is a suitable and politic co-ordination of the issues which two years ago Mr. Goodhart-Rendel brought so constructively to the forefront of professional discussion. Apart from Mr. Aslin's paper the speech-making in Dublin was mostly an elegant combination of recreation and ceremonial.

At the informal reception on the evening of 21 June, Mr. Sean T. O'Kelly, Tanaiste and Minister for Local Government and Public Health, and the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Alderman Alfred Byrne, welcomed the con-

ference on behalf of the Eire Government and the city; on the following day, at the inaugural meeting, in the morning, the two Presidents, Mr. J. J. Robinson and Mr. Goodhart-Rendel, officially launched the Conference, not on to a troubled sea of debate but for the pleasure cruise which started on the same afternoon with a garden party in the grounds of Lord Iveagh's house in St. Stephen's Green. Here the Conference was honoured by the presence of Mr. De Valera, who was photographed in the conference group. The general company wandered about the lawns and had tea in the sun and watched a dancing display and began the conversations which lasted until each successive dawn.

At some conferences the banquet has come at the end of an exhausting day of tours, but here everyone commended the plan which allowed them to go easily home to their hotels to rest and change with ample time to equip themselves for ceremonial feasting in the circular hall of the Mansion House. The menu and the speeches were all on a scale appropriate to a Centenary Celebration. This is no place for comparison of speeches, but at least it can be recorded how brilliantly and gaily Mr. Goodhart-Rendel cast off his presidential cares in a speech which, like all the speeches he has made, could justly be described as the best he has ever made. The Banquet also gave the Lord Mayor a fine opportunity to say an official good-bye to the architects

at the close of his long term of office, during which, under his architect-conscious leadership, Dublin has risen from its troubles, extended and renewed, with none of its old graces impaired and many new ones added.

On the following day, Friday, in the morning, Mr. Aslin read his paper to an audience which included all the many representatives of local authorities who had come to the conference and others who were particularly interested in the subject. A good number of members went on the whole day tours through the countryside and others joined in the afternoon tours all enjoying the most beautiful weather that could possibly have been wanted which lasted through the evening, so that, added to the pleasures of the dance in Lord Iveagh's house, the dancers were able once more to enjoy the garden in the intervals between all the various kinds of refreshment that a lavish ball committee had provided.

Every conference of architects must be dominated by the qualities of the city in which it is held. Dublin ruled this one; getting to meetings was not a thing to be accomplished hastily in a taxi, but was in itself an event that deserved leisure and deliberation to enjoy to the full the education and pleasure of these wide suave streets. The damp Dublin light reflected from the soft coloured brickwork, its colour value perhaps created by the tone of the brick, unifies the details, not always so remarkably good, in the way that

glazing or varnish helps to pull together the composition of a picture. Every place all the time has the quality of a Shutter-Boys or Malton drawing. Dublin is probably the only city in the British Isles where Georgian architecture survives, not merely as a thing to write to *The Times* about, but as part, the essential part, of a living civic quality. Any of us who may have been led by some unconsidered remark, to imagine that we were going to a city described by such words as "dear," "old" and "dirty," were grandly disillusioned by this splendid clean glory. One of the most interesting things is the survival as a colloquial form until very recent years, of a particular type of terrace of two-storied houses. The particular feature of these houses is the broad flight of steps leading to the front doors of each pair. The earliest of this type must date from the end of the eighteenth century and the latest must have been built about 30 years ago. These terraces in Dublin make the suburbs, which in London are disgraced by our early bye-law houses here, places which are architecturally related to the centre.

With Dublin and the Dubliners to make it so the Conference was as good as it could possibly be. The Conference Committee and all those who collaborated, the Eire Government, the Civic Authorities, all those who opened their houses and gardens for our entertainment, deserve and get our enthusiastic thanks.



The garden party in the grounds of Lord Iveagh's house



THE BRITISH ARCHITECTS' CONFERENCE DUBLIN

AND CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF THE ARCHITECTS OF IRELAND

THE INAUGURAL MEETING

HELD IN THE SUPPER ROOM OF THE MANSION HOUSE, DUBLIN, ON THURSDAY, 22 JUNE 1939,
MR. J. J. ROBINSON, PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF THE ARCHITECTS OF IRELAND, IN THE CHAIR

At the opening of the meeting addresses of congratulation to the R.I.A.I. on having reached its centenary were presented to Mr. Robinson on behalf of the R.I.B.A., and on behalf of the Learned Societies of Ireland.

The address from the R.I.B.A., read by Mr. H. S. Goodhart-Rendel, President of the R.I.B.A., was as follows :—

**TO THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL OF THE
ROYAL INSTITUTE OF THE ARCHITECTS OF
IRELAND.**

At this Centenary Celebration of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, the Royal Institute of British Architects

desires to express its cordial congratulations to a Society with which it has for fifty years been closely allied.

The "general advancement of Architecture" was the primary object of its foundation, and throughout the 100 years of its life the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland has been faithful to the highest ideals.

During the fifty years of the association of the two Institutes, the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland has sent to the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects a succession of men of distinction and fine accomplishment.

It is therefore, with gratification, and a strong sense of fraternal pride, that the R.I.B.A., in this message of goodwill, trusts that the happy relations which have always existed in the past will continue in the future, and that the combined strength of the two Societies will ever be devoted to one end, the service

of the greatest of Arts.—H. S. Goodhart-Rendel, President of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Mr. J. A. Ryan, President of the Institute of Civil Engineers of Ireland, presented the joint address on behalf of the Learned Societies of Ireland. The address was as follows :—

TO THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF THE ARCHITECTS OF IRELAND.

We offer, on behalf of the Societies for which we are privileged to speak, our very sincere congratulations and good wishes to the Institute on the occasion of the celebration of its Centenary. The Institute, in a hundred years of service to the profession, to Art, and to the Nation, has merited the respect and gratitude of all sections of the community. We are confident that the Institute will remain loyal to this tradition of service, and we take advantage of this happy occasion to express a hope that the friendly relations which have always existed between our several Societies will continue unchecked, and will contribute materially to the pursuit of that ideal.

ROYAL HIBERNIAN ACADEMY OF IRELAND.

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN.

THE INSTITUTE OF CIVIL ENGINEERS OF IRELAND.

THE INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS.

THE MASTER BUILDERS ASSOCIATION.

THE ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND.

THE INSTITUTION OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS.

CUMANN NA hINNEALTOIRI (ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION).

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND.

THE SOCIETY OF INCORPORATED ACCOUNTANTS IN IRELAND.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND.

THE ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED AND CORPORATE ACCOUNTANTS.

THE ENGINEERING AND SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND.

THE CHARTERED SURVEYORS' INSTITUTION.

THE ARCHITECTURAL GRADUATES' ASSOCIATION.

THE FEDERATION OF BUILDERS, CONTRACTORS, AND ALLIED EMPLOYERS OF IRELAND.

The CHAIRMAN then expressed the thanks of the Council and Members of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, to Mr. Goodhart-Rendel and Mr. Ryan for the addresses they had presented.

Mr. Robinson then read letters which had been received from the Royal Dublin Society; Akademisk Arkitektforening, Copenhagen; Nippon Kenchikushi Kai (the Association of Nippon Architects); Dansk Arkitekt Forening, Copenhagen; The National Fascist Society of Engineers, Rome; The New Zealand Institute of Architects; Tekniska Samfundet, Göteborg; The Manitoba Association of Architects; Svenska Arkitekters Riksförbund, Stockholm; The Royal Architectural Society of Belgium; The Central Council of the Institute of South African Architects.

Mr. Goodhart-Rendel's Inaugural Address

In a few days' time I shall cease to be president of the Royal Institute of British Architects. This is my last presidential address, and might excusably—I suppose—be retrospective. Yet retrospect is a dangerous thing; it turned Lot's wife into a statue of salt, and, although I can imagine no greater contrast than that between Portland Place and the cities of the Plain, I feel that forward glances always are better than backward. The first necessity of men on the move is to look where they are going, and in spirit we must always be advancing rather than retreating.

I say advancing in spirit: whether material advance is possible for the present will depend upon the doubtful outcome of the European situation. Advance in public service may be checked at any time by lack of means or of opportunity; but to an architect advance in his art is possible up to the very moment at which his brains are blown out—if blown out they are to be. What has begun in one head can go on in another, when the work of hands lies level in the dust.

I begin upon this serious note because to do otherwise at this time would be a poor compliment

to an audience of architects. We must face disheartening possibilities squarely, in order both to provide against them and to meet and to conquer our fear. Having done this we must turn towards possibilities more agreeable and prepare for the peace that some turn of circumstance may yet vouchsafe to us. I believe that a waterproof sunshade is—or used to be—called an *en-tout-cas*. We have to devise something of the same sort between a sword and a ploughshare.

I do not know how sharp it is desirable that a ploughshare should be, but I do know that the edge of our *en-tout-cas* activity must now be very keen indeed. When, recently, I looked through the address I delivered at the Bristol conference last year, I was surprised to realise how very much of our present martial preparation must at that time have been already under way. That the Royal Institute and its allied societies did not give the dictators pause must be due, I imagine, to continental suspicions that those bodies did not mean quite all that they said. Possibly some attention was also paid abroad to seeming ambiguities in the policy of the British Government.

At all events we now know that in England no time can be lost, no effort spared, no distraction tolerated in our preparations for giving a thoroughly bad time to any unprovoked assailant, and for minimising the effect of his assault. The Royal Institute led the way in the study of precautions against air-raids, and has shown by the preparation of its register that it can set in order its own house as well as its members can the houses of other people. I believe that in only one thing have we cause for regret; we have not yet made proper provision for our casualties. In spite of repeated appeals made on its behalf the Architects' Benevolent Society is still lamentably short of money. No doubt if a war should break out its coffers would overflow, but it seems a pity to have to endure a war only for that. Alas! no war is needed to cause the distress the Society exists to help: that distress is always with us, and is at present increasing through the shadow of uncertainty cast over the livelihood of the less fortunate among our confrères. If there were any words I could find in this cause more persuasive than those I have already used so often and with so little effect, I should wish those words to be the last and the most solemn that I uttered from the chair I shall so soon be leaving.

Even if peace should be unbroken between nations I think it will be a long time before architects are allowed to enjoy any comfortable degree of quietness. However much we discount, and rightly discount, the exaggerations of those who speak of a social system in the melting pot, we are bound to admit that many cool certainties of the nineteenth century have lately become rather hot and sticky. Whether these certainties melt to evaporation or set again in a new form, it seems undeniable that the architect's function and scope are changing from what for some time they have been, and are unlikely ever to change back again. The requirements of life are becoming so complicated that more and more often an employer cannot tell an architect what to provide, but has to be told by his architect what ought to be provided. The architect is expected to plan not only houses or offices, but also to some extent the life that is to be lived or the work that is to be done in them.

The future welfare of our profession seems to me to depend very much upon how we interpret and define these new responsibilities. If we regard ourselves as doctors called in to treat specific cases public confidence in us will increase. On the other hand, public confidence in us will decrease if we regard ourselves as reformers justified in

spending other people's money upon what we think they ought to want, without considering whether they actually do want it or not. However infallible our judgment may appear to ourselves, it is unlikely to convince those who pay for its exercise against their will.

At the present stage of western civilisation the number of people who know how to think is small; the many prefer to feel things strongly and to have their feelings led and supported by the thinking of the few. Furthermore, among those who claim to be thinkers a heated political atmosphere increases the human tendency to let thinking be twisted by moods and appetites. Probably never has the blessed quality of judiciousness been at a greater discount. The air of the market is rent with cries as poignant and as rationally incommunicative as the cries heard at the Zoo.

Architects cannot retire from this *mêlée* on to the mountains of calm thought. Yet thought is their proper responsibility and implement. The days are nearly over of the romantic architect waiting upon inspiration for an intermittent supply of whimsical fancies, and our students are now likely to be in closer touch with schools of economics than with schools of art handicraft. Planning, which is our new pet name for organisation, is becoming accepted as one of the architect's cardinal functions, and the youngest architects naturally chafe at being set to plan anything smaller than the world.

Now the world has an ineradicable obstinacy in wishing to plan itself; and until the day when it is composed entirely of architects I doubt if it will resign itself entirely to architectural direction. We must make full use of our widened and ever-widening opportunities, but we must not assume opportunities where they do not and cannot exist. We must never forget that our advice is properly directed to how ends should be met rather than to what the ends met should be. No doubt as part of the world we serve we have opinions as to its right guidance, but if we give those opinions unsought we are likely to be told quite reasonably that in such matters the recommendations of political experts will be preferred to ours. Nothing could be more disastrous to our profession than for it to become known as a profession of busybodies.

This danger may not seem very real at first sight, since most of the obvious social propaganda attempted by means of architecture is plainly marked for what it is. It is plainly the work of eager and inexperienced men, for which nobody

would regard the profession as generally responsible. Unfortunately, however, there is a tendency to propaganda lying deeper than this, which is often promoted by architects who themselves are guiltless of ambitions outside their proper province. An increasing amount of building is provided every year for the classes that are considered to be still too ignorant to be consulted as to what they shall live in and work in and play in. The local authority decides what is good for them, and they have to make the best of it.

I dare say that this is inevitable: I note the fact with regret without committing myself to any protest. Social improvement has never been achieved yet without some invasion of liberty, and the comparative valuation of games and candles is a matter for which I profess no especial competence. What I do regret, what I should protest against if any protest were likely to be effectual, is the divorce these conditions imply between the architect who plans and the people for whom his planning is ultimately done. When an architect designs a house for Lady X, Lady X has to be satisfied with the plans before anything is actually built. When he designs council houses for Mrs. Y's in the mass to inhabit, he has only the council to satisfy that if the Mrs. Y's do not like them, they ought to do so. I am not sure that Lady X's requirements are in their nature any more sacred than Mrs. Y's, but I am quite sure that working for a capricious and powerful Lady X is more wholesome for an architect than working for a Mrs. Y who never appears upon the scene until the work is done. Yet it is for the unknown Mrs. Y that he now has chiefly to provide.

Here, I think, there lies both a pitfall and a great opportunity for the architect. The pitfall is that of thinking no further than he need think in order to earn his fees, of furnishing so many yards of approved housing whenever it is required from him. Or of approved anything else—it is not only housing that tends nowadays to become stereotyped. The opportunity lies in his power as an artist of being more human than his masters, of refusing to be a party to the levelling policy which aims at fitting men to measures rather than measures to men.

I am not denying that in many kinds of buildings standardisation of design would be desirable. Things that supply universal and unvarying wants may be best and most cheaply made by the thousand to a universal and unvarying pattern. They will

be made by machinery and in the future will probably be designed by machinery also. There is nothing tendentious in this, it is merely a rational application of means to ends. The levellers, however, go much further. "For what we supply," they say, "a want can be created by appropriate educational means: we will do what seems good in our eyes and then alter other people's eyes until it seems good to them also."

Architects as citizens may approve or disapprove this policy, and, if as architects it is no business of theirs to promote it, it must equally as architects be no business of theirs to oppose it. As architects, however, they must supply good architecture, and all good architecture is rooted deep in real rather than in ideal requirements, is made to the measure of something that already exists. Ready-made buildings must not be produced by ready-made thought; however general the instructions given to him the architect in interpreting them must supply an adaptation to particular conditions that his employers have probably been too busy to observe. Many public bodies employ human designers only because the robot designer has not yet been perfected. The human designer, the architect, must take care always to do what no robot could ever compass, and must teach his masters its value.

Politics seem to get into everything nowadays, like sand in a sandstorm, and are particularly irritating when they get into our eyes. In the first great Battle of the Styles fought under Lord Palmerston and Lord John Manners, the cause of progress and freedom was felt by many to have suffered a setback when Sir Gilbert Scott was forbidden to point his arches. The steep red roofs of the first garden suburb, that at Bedford Park, Chiswick, were widely suspected of sheltering Bohemian and subversive philosophies. Nowadays Bohemian and subversive philosophies seem ill at ease under any roof that is not flat. The only harm that I see in these symbolical conventions is that they set people looking not at architecture but through architecture at something with which its imagined connection is quite arbitrary. We architects want our buildings to be looked *at*, not through. We want to enrich human lives by the emotional experiences that are at Art's command; we do not want merely to set up signposts to any political Utopia. We want to give a meaning, a spiritual value, to the best in what already is; we want to give and receive enjoyment *now*, and with political

sand in our eyes we are at a great disadvantage for doing so.

Before I let that ill-omened word *political* retire finally from this speech I must use it to describe another danger, this time not so much to architecture as to architectural societies. Until recently an architectural society has been regarded both from within and from without as a group of like-minded people associated together in pursuit of objects that all had in common. Persons who wished to pursue objects as to which the society as a whole could not be in agreement were considered both by the society and themselves to be better outside. But now things are not so simple. For various reasons the societies need all the members they can get, provided those members are honourable and accomplished in their profession. The necessary protection of that profession, also, has made it somewhat disadvantageous for its practitioners to remain what is called "unattached." New members, therefore, whose agreement with a society's policy may be only partial, have to be allowed to come and bring their hatchets on the strict understanding that those hatchets are buried beneath the council table. There the hatchets generally remain to the credit of all concerned, but in an imperfect world it is obvious that occasionally they will be scratched up and brandished. A combat follows which probably everybody rather enjoys, a compromise is reached, and the work of the society is resumed after the interruption.

In parliaments and in some of the councils of local government the procedure is inevitably different from this. In those bodies each member is provided with a hatchet by those whom he represents and is given strict instructions never to let it out of his hands. It is not for him to listen to arguments with an open mind, it is for him to gloss over flaws in some, and to pounce upon flaws in others, as the agreed policy of his party may dictate. His approval of that policy in general is no doubt sincere, in particular matters it is not sincerity that is asked of him but obedience.

I am quite prepared to believe that experience has proved this cancelling out of rival interests, presented by delegates, to be the best way yet discovered of governing a country. I do not think it is a good way of governing a profession. Whether I and others think it a good way or not can probably have little effect upon events, which will be shaped by larger and blinder forces than personal opinions.

I would, however, ask those who are pressing for the sectional representation of the architectural profession upon the Institute council to ponder very seriously the questions following. Would a point of view acknowledged as that of a party ever receive the dispassionate consideration that the same point of view would meet with if presented by an individual? Would not organisation for the redress of grievances, imaginary or real, produce a counter-organisation of resistance that might lead to almost continual deadlock? Would an institute hampered with all the machinery that party strife necessitates, with a division lobby perhaps, and whips—would that institute ever get through any business? The Institute with all its faults now gets through quite a lot. Parliaments, as we know, get through very little indeed, except when they are thoroughly frightened. I sincerely hope the Institute is not going to remodel itself on the pattern of those most inferior and relatively ineffective assemblies. It began in a room above the "Cave of Harmony" in Covent Garden. I pray that it may never end in being itself a Cave of Discord.

And now goodbye to the word *political*, since I will not allow that it applies to what I next have to say. The upholding of a high professional standard both in conduct and in proficiency is the prime duty of our societies, and it is to our success in doing this that we owe the passing of the Architects Registration Act. If architects had not proved generally worthy of public confidence they would not have been legally distinguished from imposters as that Act intends that they should be.

How can we ensure that this intention is carried out? Only by maintaining that high professional standard without any abatement whatever. Why should it be abated? Why, indeed! But unless we take care it may be. I am not speaking now of conduct, since I will not suppose that anybody could wish to lower the standard of that. I am speaking of proficiency, the standard of which would certainly fall if any qualifying examinations less rigorous than ours were to be accepted by the registration authorities. Unfortunately not everybody seems to see eye to eye with us in this matter, and we cannot count upon any external aid in our defence of the present standard. The Institute and its Allied Societies alone must hold the fort, and must man it as numerous as possible. In short, this issue, like many others that occur from time to time, forces upon us the obligation of

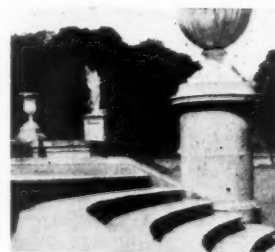
comprehensiveness; circumstances have made us the guardians of our profession, and those we protect we must whenever possible enrol so that they can help to give the help they themselves require. We were very few in our first cave, we are now a mighty army, perpetually recruiting our strength. We have great causes now to fight for, and in our desire to be worthy of those causes we are all completely united.

I think sometimes that if potentially quarrelsome people could at intervals be moved *en masse* into new and interesting places all their differences would die down in the common interest those places would excite. I do not say that architects are potentially quarrelsome, they are well known for the exceptional sweetness of their tempers, but having already spoken so much of differences that do exist in their opinions, I cannot pretend that those differences are not sometimes very apparent. Yet here we all are, with one cementing emotion predominant, that of delight to be in Dublin. There can be no English-speaking architect so ignorant as not to know a good deal about this city, if only by means of drawings and photographs. To visit it with all the resources lavished upon us of Irish hospitality, to have its architectural beauties displayed to us by guides so distinguished are experiences that none of us is likely ever to forget. During the conference I am now inaugurating we shall have many opportunities of expressing our gratitude, but we must not begin our pleasure without saying grace. We thank first of all the Royal Institute of Architects in Ireland in the person of its president, Mr. Robinson. We also thank the Lord Mayor and his corporation for the use we are allowed to make of this beautiful building. We thank all those who in other ways are putting us at our ease and making us feel so happily welcomed. I hope that none of these kind benefactors will ever regret having opened their doors so hospitably to their confrères from the sister isle.

Killjoy critics have said to me that our architectural congresses are becoming nothing more nor less than picnics, and to those critics I imagine that the solemnity of this speech would be a sign of grace. To me it seems something to apologise for, but something equally that I could not help, for reasons you will, I am sure, understand. Anyone who has worked through his term as chief servant of the Institute is bound to have thought deeply

of the Institute's future, of what are likely to be the next chapters of a history in which he no longer will be closely involved. I think that to keep his thoughts to himself might be a greater vanity than to speak them, since such reticence might imply that he over-estimated the weight they would carry. He has spent two years in the observation post nearest to the scene of action, and although what he reports may be coloured by his involuntary prejudices, he has good data for speculation. Yet he cannot know, as some future historian will know, how his own time, so vividly present in his mind, resembles or differs from times that are gone. He cannot tell whether things new to him are new in fact or whether they have all happened over and over again in the past always with a result the reverse of that which he now expects.

I believe, as I have told you, that politics in one form are now damaging our art, and that in another form they may soon hamper the efficiency of our societies. Time alone can show whether these evils are as dangerous as I think them, and whether if they are so dangerous they are capable of being averted. I hope very much that some of those who have heard or will read this address may agree that the effort to avert them is worth making, since nothing can be lost by it and much may be gained. The Institute has chosen to be my successor a man who is regarded by all who know him with quite peculiar trust and affection. Under his ægis it will be protected from all dangers if it is wise enough to heed his counsels. I pray that this wisdom will prevail, and that he may have the peaceful and prosperous presidentship that no one could deserve more than he. Peace and prosperity both without and within—those must be the objects of our ardent wishes. And wishes do sometimes come true.



Powerscourt, Dublin

Mr. J. J. Robinson's Inaugural Address

It is a great privilege and a high honour to address you gentlemen on behalf of the professional colleagues whom I have the honour to represent. Let me first of all, on their behalf, say how much they appreciate your presence, and how glad they are that many of you have come long distances to participate in the celebrations of the Centenary of our Institute, and at the same time to hold here the Annual Conference of the R.I.B.A. I have wondered how I should address you, and I think that perhaps a few words on the earlier years of our foundation might not be amiss.

They were essentially years of transition. Victoria was not long on the throne, and the symptoms of the golden era of her reign were already beginning to manifest themselves.

The great railway building boom was in full swing, and new railway flotations and speculation in their shares was the order of the day. Consols stood at 95, and the Napoleonic wars had receded 25 years into the past, just as to-day, in point of time, we stand in almost identical position in regard to the Great War. The development of steam power had started a great industrial age, which was to transform the face of the countryside and make England richer and more powerful.

In Ireland the period was one of comparative political quiet. The Poor Laws, involving, *inter alia*, the erection of over one hundred workhouses, had been passed in 1838, and the Municipal Reform Bill passed in the same year made it possible for Daniel O'Connell to become Lord Mayor of Dublin. It is recorded that he "took much state in his scarlet cloak and golden chain"—incidentally, the same chain which is sometimes worn by our present Lord Mayor.

In architecture, the Georgian age was over, and neo-Greek was yielding to neo-mediaevalism.

The first meeting of the Institute was held at No. 10 Upper Gloucester Street, on 1 October 1839. On that occasion, Sir Richard Morrison addressed the meeting. He emphasised the benefits to be derived from association to the persons meeting together with a common interest and a common purpose, namely, to advance our profession by improving its study and vindicating its rights. The Institute was to be a centre of union and communi-

cation, where a friendly intercourse shall be kept up amongst its members, its object being to incorporate every individual in the country whose station and professional acquirements entitle him to be recognised as an architect. He stated that a most rigid discrimination in the selection of members must be exercised, as there were numerous pretenders, by whose ignorance and presumption discredit had been in too many instances cast on our profession.

Subsequently, at a meeting held on 8 October 1839, Lord Fitzgerald and Vesce took the chair, and Sir Richard Morrison again addressed the meeting. On this occasion he said that our profession was not properly estimated in this country, because, from peculiar circumstances, it was not properly understood. "When its true character is made known, it must be valued; and to accomplish this object we feel no doubt will most depend upon ourselves." Public opinion was to be directed to our claims; the educated classes taught to consider our pretensions, and to feel that it was discreditable to their intelligence and to their station if they exhibited ignorance of our important duties by confounding the instructed professors of our art with grossly ignorant pretenders. His lordship was pleased to reply, giving a very luminous and most eloquent view of the importance of the science of architecture, its effects in civilising nations and contributing to their happiness and prosperity. He expressed a favourable opinion of the success of the Institute, and his desire to promote its interests and objects by his most earnest countenance and support.

From 1839 to 1 January 1842 our records are blank. That the work of the Institute went on there is no doubt, because reference is made to temporary minute books covering this period, which appear to have been lost.

Lord Fitzgerald and Vesce died in 1843, and subsequently until 1863 Lord Powerscourt and other noblemen became titular Presidents. It is not recorded that any one of them, with the exception of Lord Fitzgerald, ever attended a meeting of the Institute, and beyond graciously accepting, in flowery correspondence, the office of President, they appear to have done nothing more.

There is no note in the minutes of the demise of any of them, except that of Lord Fitzgerald and Vescei, and no notes of sympathy or condolence appear.

I have faithfully read the minutes of every meeting for the first thirty years of our existence, and it clearly emerges that the affairs of the Institute were always carried on by the faithful few, whose attendances were regular, and who gave much of their time and ability to the management of the affairs of the profession.

Our first Vice-President, Sir Richard Morrison, appears to have been the main spirit behind the foundation of the Institute, and during his lifetime meetings were regularly held and much business was transacted. That he was a man of influence and social standing is indicated by his title, and by the fact that he appears to have been on sufficiently good terms with the Lord Lieutenant of his day to discuss with him, at a levee, the affairs of the profession.

The following minute appears in the record of a meeting held on 2 April 1842 :

"A letter from the Vice-President being read conveying to the Council the subject of a communication which he had from Sir Thos. Deane stating that he had just returned from London where he had been received with the greatest attention and kindness by the British Institute and that they had expressed their desire to have a copy of our address to Lord De Grey, with his Lordship's reply, in order that they might be enrolled amongst their records ; with the names of those who attended the presentation."

I may mention that the title "Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland" is used from the very first meeting, though there is no record of any permission to use this title. That it must have been authorised in some manner is inferred from the fact that communications were frequently sent from the Institute to various Lords Lieutenant, who, one feels sure, would have challenged the use of the word "Royal" had it not been authorised.

In July 1842, Sir Richard Morrison mentions an interview he had with the Lord Lieutenant on the "injustice and hardship under which the architects of Ireland labour in consequence of all Government work being confined solely to the arrangement and control of the Board of Works." His Excellency was pleased to express a desire to have full information in writing, but there is no record of any further action.

On 13 December 1842, the following letter was sent to George Bailey, Esq., who was apparently at that time secretary to the R.I.B.A. :

25 Lr. Fitzwilliam Street.
13 December 1842

Sir,

I beg leave to inform you that at the first general meeting of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, held on the 12th inst.—Sir Richard Morrison, V.P., in the chair—I laid before them the copy of the transactions of the Royal Institute of British Architects for 1842, which you were kind enough to present to them through me ; and I am directed by the members of this Institute, in acknowledging the receipt of this very interesting and valuable present, to assure the members of the British Institute how much obliged they feel for their kind consideration and to express their deep anxiety to cultivate that friendly intercourse and correspondence which they trust may always exist between the Sister Institutions.

(Signed) F. DARLEY

George Bailey, Esqr.

In 1843 some correspondence took place with the R.I.B.A. relative to the practice of "submitting designs in competing speculations for premiums, or for employment, etc., without a specific or properly implied promise of certain payment to each and every competitor." But no result was achieved, as the members of the R.I.B.A. appear not to have been able, at this stage, to agree upon a definite policy in regard to competitions.

In deploring the non-attendance of members at meetings, Sir Richard Morrison said in January 1844 : "They must meet as friends and fellow labourers for a common object, that object is the advancement of their profession, as distinguished from their immediate individual profit. It is the acquiring of honour for the art, as distinguished from mere personal motives, and as the member who pursues those noble objects will eventually thus best promote his own interests, for who acts a different part, will while he meets the censure of worthier members, assuredly, at length, find himself much mistaken in his paltry motives, and noted to be as undeserving in public estimation, as he is in ours."

Correspondence with Lord Charlemont in reference to the Presidency is interesting, as his lordship delayed in replying, and his reply refusing the honour is worth reading :

13 September 1843

Lord Charlemont presents his compliments to Sir Richard Morrison, and begs to assure him that the offer made by the Royal Institute of Irish Architects has given him feelings of the highest satisfaction, of the most lively pleasure. It has at once flattered his pride, his self-esteem, and his

vanity, it was an offer, not unconsidered, to be rejected; he, therefore, took time, to turn the subject in every way, in his thoughts, the result, however, has been, that in spite of the many, many inducements, that still press upon his mind, he feels compelled to decline the honour; he is obliged to confess to himself, and to his own mortification, that he is not in any way suited to the dignified situation in question, and therefore requests that Sir R. Morrison will accept of his warmest thanks for himself, and the body in whose name he writes, and have the goodness to communicate to it the conclusion he has thus most reluctantly been forced to come to.

Lord Charlemont again begs to assure Sir Richard of his gratitude, and of the high consideration in which he holds him.

Meetings are regularly minuted up to a meeting in February 1844, at which it is decided to ask the Royal Geological Society for the use of its rooms at the Custom House, but after this meeting there is a blank until November 1849. There is no record of any meeting between these dates, and one can only speculate as to what occurred.

The hiatus in the minutes from 1844 to 1849 is difficult to explain. It was in Ireland a period of heavy political turbulence. The agitation for repeal of the Union, headed by O'Connell, was at its height; the Disarming Act had passed the British Parliament in 1844, and military preparations were proceeding apace throughout the country. "Whom are they going to fight," exclaimed O'Connell. "We are not going to fight them. We are unarmed and we meet peacefully to demand our country's freedom. There is no bloodshed, no drunkenness even, and no ill humour. Hurrah for the Queen, God bless her!"

Later, in 1844, the first signs of the famine started to appear, and for the next four years, while vast shipments of grain were leaving Irish ports, famine was prevalent, and a population in 1846 estimated at 8,775,000 had decreased to 6,500,000 by 1851. Emigration during those years accounted for a large number, placed by varying authorities at from 600,000 to 1,500,000.

I mention these facts as a possible explanation of the hiatus in the minutes.

Sir Richard Morrison's name does not appear in 1849. Reference is made to minutes of previous meetings, and temporary minute books, and the secretary is directed to apply to the late secretary for the minute books and other documents of the Royal Institute. The name of the Marquis of Clanricarde appears as President.

In 1850 mention is made of "11 bronze medals which in addition to one already produced makes 12."

These medals were made from a die bequeathed to the Institute by Lord Fitzgerald and Vescei, the first President. They were called the Fitzgerald Medals, and were awarded from time to time to students who produced work of merit. In 1860 it was awarded to Mr. Thomas Drew, Fellow, for measured drawings of the ancient Church of St. Audeon, Cornmarket, Dublin, and many other awards were made.

After 1850, further records of Council meetings are meagre, but general meetings are held about four times a year. Reference is made to business transacted by the Council, but minutes must have been kept in temporary minute books, which are not available.

The first annual report is issued to members after a meeting on 21 November 1850.

It states that the Institute was founded in 1839, and refers to the fact that the appointed periods for meetings were but irregularly observed, and that considerable intervals occurred during which no meetings were held. It deplores the lack of suitable premises, and suggests that efforts should be made to secure accommodation, either independently or in conjunction with a kindred society, such as that of the Civil Engineers.

Membership is given as 44, consisting of 28 Fellows, 7 Hon. Fellows, 7 Associates, and 2 Hon. Associates. The amount of subscriptions received during that year was £37 5s. 6d., and the Treasurer brought forward a balance in hand from the previous year of 3s. 6d., "after paying expenses of dinner." Among the honorary members, the names of Charles Barry and Charles Cockerell occur.

About this time there was some discussion of amalgamation with the Civil Engineers' Society, and some negotiations appear to have been contemplated, but there is no further mention of the matter.

In December 1851, a letter is written to Mr. Darley, who had acted as hon. secretary for many years, asking if he had any of the minutes of the Institute from the first formation down to 1842, but I can find no further record.

In 1852 the byelaws were altered, throwing open the ranks to admit "besides professional architects and students of architecture, to both the more purely artistical and the practical men, who are associated with architects, such as the artist, the amateur, and the builder." Subsequently, in May 1853, they were again amended so as "not to

include or extend to any party undertaking the execution of works as a contractor or builder."

The annual report appears in November 1852, and the opening paragraph stating that the Institute has reached the 13th year of its existence, goes on to regret "that it should have hitherto been productive of so little beyond the benefit to be derived from casual discussion and interchange of opinion." Later, it strikes a more confident note and hope for the future.

At a meeting in January 1853, a long discussion is recorded "on the mediæval arts in general, and the acoustics of ancient buildings." One wonders what was said about acoustics, but it is recorded that there was "a general expression of the approbation of the members present of the acoustic effect of mediæval structures."

From 2 July 1853 to 28 March 1867 there is another hiatus in the minutes, though the business of the Institute was obviously carried on during the interval, as reference is made to former meetings. But it seems that affairs had not flourished in the interval, as the matter of the reconstruction of the Institute was referred to at the first meeting held at the Arcade Hotel, Suffolk Street, on 28 March 1863, and alterations to the byelaws are foreshadowed.

Amendments to the byelaws were made in April 1863, and the alterations are given, but the original byelaws which are amended are not, and it is, therefore, not possible to assess their full import. The word "Patron" is inserted before the word "President," and from this date an architect becomes President, and Mr. Charles Lanyon was elected first President. A deputation was appointed to attend upon the Lord Lieutenant, whose name is not given, asking him to act as Patron.

Messrs. Thomas Drew, W. Hague, C. Geoghegan, J. R. Carroll, and others were raised to the Fellowship class in May 1863. The Institute was, at this time, granted the use of a room at the Royal Hibernian Academy for meetings.

From 1867 onwards, the meetings seem to have been regularly held and well attended, and the Institute from this date takes on pretty well the form in which it has since survived.

At a meeting held at the Office of Public Works on 17 March 1864, the President reported "that he had recently received much respect and attention at a meeting of the British Institute, and that he had promised an interchange of publications and

also the power of attending meetings between the two Institutes." Which was approved by the meeting.

At a meeting in April 1864, the following resolution was passed:

"In connection with the subject of Competition designs, it having been brought under the notice of the Institute that cases had arisen in which Building Committees, while they require competing architects to be bound strictly by the terms of the conditions laid down by them, they (the Committee) failed to fulfil their part of their contract by either withholding altogether or reducing the amount of the premiums offered, it was resolved that the Institute does hereby express its decided disapprobation of such conduct on the part of Committees, as tending to weaken that confidence which should ever be placed in them, as public bodies, and also calculated to degrade the architects' profession in the eyes of the public; and the Institute trusts that its members will not at any time compromise the character of this Society by being consenting parties to such a course of proceeding."

In November 1864, membership was 82, of whom only 42 had paid their subscriptions at that time.

A special general meeting was held in December 1864 to consider the formation of a Students' Association. This suggestion did not commend itself to the Council, but a concession was made to the students by the formation of a class for architectural study in connection with the Institute. Thus, the nucleus of our present Student Class was formed. Amongst the students who agitated for the formation of an association, the names of J. J. O'Callaghan, Richard O'Brien Smyth, and W. H. Beardwood appear.

In March 1866, a memorial was sent to the British Parliament humbly and earnestly submitting that an open competition should be held for the National Gallery instead of a limited competition.

At the same time, a circular was received from the Earl of Limerick, on behalf of the British Archæological Society, on the subject of the proposed destruction of "Colstons House" in connection with the new Assize Courts, and a letter was sent to the Mayor of Bristol from the Institute, stating that it "was only necessary for the subject to be brought before the ancient Corporation of Bristol for them to feel that such a relic should be preserved at any cost."

During the year 1866, the Students' Study Association seems to have functioned only fairly well, and out of 19 meetings held during this year,

11 had to be abandoned owing to poor attendance. At the meetings designs were submitted for various subjects, and sometimes papers were read.

The control of competitions also exercised the attention of the Council, and a circular to be sent to Committees about to promote competitions was prepared. This circular is incorporated in the minutes, and it may be regarded as the first effort made by this Institute to produce rules governing the conduct of competitions.

The first Schedule of Charges appears on 12 April 1867. It is brief, and is based on a 5 per cent. fee, with 1 per cent. for "Preliminary Studies," and a gradation of fees for other further services, which are not precisely stated.

From this period onwards regular meetings were held, and the business transacted calls for no special comment.

In February 1870, Sir William Wilde, M.D., M.R.I.A., addressed a general meeting on the *Archæological Notes of Gabriel Beranger*, referring to ancient buildings in Ireland, and especially in Dublin, as existing 1750-60. Sir William was a distinguished archæologist and author, and was, in his day, as well known as his son, Oscar Wilde.

There is one name which occurs in the meetings from 1843 to 1886, that of Mr. Parke Neville, who was a member of the Council during practically

all that period. Surely this must be nearly a record. Mr. Neville was trained as an architect, and in practice as one, but he afterwards became the City Engineer of Dublin.

Subsequent proceedings of the Institute do not call for any special comment.

In 1886 the Royal Institute heard with much pleasure of the intention of the profession in England to apply for a Charter and power to require each architect to hold a Diploma of Registration.

The Irish Architectural Association was founded, under the auspices of the Institute, in 1873.

In 1888 the membership was 63, and by 1906 it had risen to 94.

It is not possible in a paper of this length to enter into all the transactions which occurred after the Institute had found its feet in 1863. There is a long record of regular meetings, which were generally well attended, and the affairs and interests of the profession appear to have been well looked after. I have endeavoured to limit the scope of this address to the first or formative years, and I have confined myself to the events which struck me as being most interesting or most important. I must apologise for the sketchy nature of my observations, and I trust that, at some future date, a full history of the Institute will be written.

I thank you.

VOTE OF THANKS

A vote of thanks to Mr. Goodhart-Rendel and Mr. Robinson for their addresses was proposed by Mr. Harry Allberry, F.R.I.A.I., seconded by Mr. R. H. Byrne, F.R.I.A.I., and passed with acclamation.

Mr. ALLBERRY: Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for the honour you have paid me in asking me to propose the vote of thanks to the Presidents of the British and Irish Institutes for the addresses we have all listened to with such pleasure. I have been told that this proposal of the vote of thanks must be formal, but even at the risk of meeting with the frowns of Sir Ian MacAlister, Mr. Buckley and the unfortunate people who are anxious to see Dublin on such a lovely morning, I would like to say what a delight it is to the architects in this country to have with us, even for a short time, Mr. Goodhart-Rendel. All of you, I am sure, have read some of his works, if not all. I have found his *Vitruvian Nights* a mine of wealth, when I am not able to write a leading article, and it is one of the best thumbled works in my small library. I felt, when he read his address, how the qualities that are displayed in his various works were being offered to us in an address of such humour, such thought and such friendliness. And that is just the one word I have

noticed about Mr. Goodhart-Rendel from the few contacts I have had with him in the Council at 66 Portland Place—that quality of friendliness, not only to those on the Council but to all the members.

As to our own President, I may say that he has worked very hard to prepare even this attenuated history of our Institute during its hundred years. I appreciate the amount of work he has done, because when I was secretary I started off to prepare a complete history, but when I got as far as the third meeting I abandoned the task in despair. I am afraid I have trespassed on that formality I was supposed to display, so I ask you to pass a vote of thanks to the two Presidents for the addresses they have given us this morning.

Mr. RALPH H. BYRNE, seconding, said: I have known Mr. Allberry for a great number of years and he has always been very helpful to me. He has said everything that I could possibly wish to say, and it only remains for me to thank all our friends very sincerely for coming here and for attending this meeting. I second this resolution.

Mr. W. H. ANSELL, Hon. Secretary R.I.B.A., then put the vote of thanks to the meeting, and it was carried with acclamation.

THE WORK, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICIAL ARCHITECT

By C. H. ASLIN, F.R.I.B.A.

A PAPER READ AT A MEETING AT THE CONFERENCE ON FRIDAY, 23 JUNE, IN THE PREMISES OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS OF IRELAND

At the outset of the proceedings the chairman, Mr. J. J. Robinson, President of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, read a letter addressed from the Legation of the United States of America in Dublin, from the President and Secretary-General of the 15th International Congress of Architects which will meet at Washington in September—

"The Organising Committee 15th International Congress of Architects presenting the compliments of the Congress Committee to the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland on the occasion of the Dublin Conference, and expressing their hope that they might have the privilege and pleasure of welcoming many members of the Dublin Conference at Washington in September next."

Mr. Robinson also read a letter from the Royal Dublin Society asking that the Society's name might be included in the list of societies on the Joint Congratulatory Address to the Institute which had been prepared by the learned societies of Ireland.

In introducing Mr. Aslin, Mr. Robinson said: In the great complexity of modern buildings, and in the methods of making them, so many problems arise that anyone endeavouring to give them the organisation, direction and control which is necessary, if chaos is to be avoided, must be properly trained unless he would be submerged. To-day the training is available to all, and our great training centres take just pride in their products. In past times openings to official posts were few, and a comparatively small proportion of young architects were attracted to this career.

Nowadays openings are many and the advantages of official employment, of which our lecturer will speak, are considerable and not lightly to be dismissed. It is thought by some that

the employment of official architects tends to reduce employment for those who select the thorny road of practice, but there is in this attitude the obvious fallacy that if the official architects were not engaged officially they would, in large proportion, be practising, and on balance I submit there would not be so much difference or benefit to the profession as a whole. After all, there is a certain volume of work to be done by architects, and the only difference in hard cash to the profession is the difference between running official architectural staffs and employing outside architects. We must always remember that the official architect is just as much one of ourselves as anyone else. In my long experience, I have made many friends amongst my professional colleagues, and, amongst these friendships, there are none I value more than those I have been so fortunate as to form with official architects.

Certainly, so far as our profession here is concerned, we can look back on our records with the sure knowledge that to official architects in this country our profession owes much. They have adorned the highest offices it was in our power to bestow, and their loyalty to the high principles of our profession, and to their professional colleagues outside, is inestimable, and as long as our records remain it will not be forgotten.

In performance their name stands high, and the great undertakings in Dublin of the Custom House, the Four Courts, and the G.P.O., amongst many others not so well known, but of equally high quality, will always be monuments to their skill and competence.

I shall now stop to let Mr. Aslin begin. I have had the privilege of reading his well-thought-out and thought-provoking paper. Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Aslin.

THE WORK, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICIAL ARCHITECT

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen,—I cannot commence my task without first thanking the President of the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland, not only for presiding at this meeting, but for the cordial and sincere references to official architects during his introductory remarks.

I am particularly sensible of the honour which my colleagues of the R.I.B.A. Official Architects' Committee have imposed upon me by inviting me to undertake the task of addressing this conference.

The occasion is unique in that I believe it to be the

first time that an R.I.B.A. Conference has had any meeting other than the inaugural one, and it certainly is the first time that a conference gathering has been addressed by an official architect.

That this is so is a commentary on the close collaboration between the comparatively new Official Architects' Committee and the Council of the R.I.B.A. In this connection I should like to take the opportunity of acknowledging the work done by Mr. Percy Thomas, recently President of the Institute, in pressing forward the proposal that official architects should be represented

by a committee. I have also to acknowledge the help afforded to me by my fellow-members of the Official Architects' Committee and Sir Ian MacAlister, all of whom very kindly read through my draft and made extremely valuable comments.

My task is all the more onerous owing to the fact that this conference is accustomed to a very high quality of address from its long line of distinguished Presidents and you will agree that after the brilliant expositions of yesterday, if I am fearful of my ability to do justice either to the subject or my audience, it is a fear which few might escape.

This fear is also enhanced by having to speak in the capital city of a country where even the humblest are justly famed for the command of our language.

Yesterday Mr. Goodhart-Rendel mentioned the existence of "killjoys" who are said to lament the fact the R.I.B.A. Conferences are usually lighthearted and jolly gatherings.

They will probably be appeased by my efforts because I fear that it will not be a particularly rollicking performance, but the penance I undergo in performing this task is to me made light by the fact that it has introduced me to Dublin and our charming and considerate hosts, whose charm even extends to gracing this meeting when they might have been enjoying the delights of town or country.

The title is obviously a very prosaic one, and indicates an enormous range of subject, and I would state at once that I do not propose to deal with it by cataloguing the varied happenings in the life of an Official Architect. On the other hand, I propose to deal generally with the subject, covering as wide a range as possible, in the hope that discussion may be stimulated. If I happen to sound at all dogmatic at any point, I beg to be forgiven, as there is obviously insufficient time to amplify every statement, and it is hoped that emphasis may prove the spur to debate.

Past History

We are apt to think of the official architect as something quite new in the profession, and the private practitioner as the normal and established unit, but this is by no means so. Through the long line of architects, known and unknown, since the days of Egypt and Greece, through the Roman Empire, the Medieval Period and the Renaissance, architects have obviously been remunerated for their labours in a variety of ways; in some cases by wealthy patrons, in others employed by the State or Church, and their work has been judged by their contemporaries and by posterity on its merits and as works of art, without any regard for the way in which they were paid for doing it.

It is interesting to note that there was a Surveyor or Comptroller of the King's Works as early as Edward I, and the first official architect in this country who carried out works on a large scale was no less a person than Inigo Jones, who was Surveyor to the King from 1615

to 1648. From 1705 to 1718 the office of the surveyor was occupied by Sir Christopher Wren, and amongst the names of other distinguished architects who held office under the Crown are those of Hawksmoor, Colin Campbell, William Kent, Robert Adam, Sir William Chambers, Sir James Pennethorne and Sir Robert Smirke. Whatever the individual capabilities of the modern official architect may be, he can at least claim the inspiration of following a company of very distinguished members of the profession.

The official architect has of recent years been looked upon as something new, and perhaps strange, merely because he is in his present form a product of the age in which we live. In the last century, marked by individualism in trade and other enterprise, he would have been an anachronism. To-day, in a world of Government control and social services, of municipal enterprise and great combines, the official architect has grown naturally into this new shape of controlled undertakings so different from the individualistic world of the nineteenth century.

The Official Architect Defined

Though, as I have said, the idea is not new, it seems necessary to define the official architect, because in the past few years since we became conscious of him he has appeared to be, in some quarters, a person with a completely differing outlook, and in a category apart from his brother practitioners. This seems to me an entirely erroneous conception, because in the actual purpose of his work, his ultimate aim and ideals, he in no sense differs either from the present-day practitioner or the long line of architects of the past. His professional training is precisely the same as that of any other member of the profession, and until he becomes qualified he is probably completely unaware of the inclinations and opportunities which will shape his career. When he becomes the servant of a local authority or Government department, his attitude to the great art of which he is a practitioner, and his attachment to the profession, differ in nothing from that of the private practitioner.

Official Architect and Private Practitioner

If he does not differ in his training and his general outlook, in what then does his work differ from that of others? I suggest that there can be only two possible differences. The first and obvious one is his method of payment, which is by way of salary instead of being remunerated by a commission on the cost of work which he carries out, and the second is that his method of employment may cause him to develop an outlook which ultimately affects the buildings he designs.

The official architect receives a salary for which he is expected by his employers to carry out a continuity of work of considerable variety and apparently ever-increasing volume. On the other hand, a private practitioner must build up a practice and depend for his livelihood on a variety of work from individual

clients, for which he receives payment by way of a percentage on the cost. In the one case the work is forthcoming without effort on the part of the architect, and, in the other, considerable enterprise and business ability is needed to obtain it.

There is in some minds an idea that all virility lies in competition, and that work executed under its stress is necessarily superior to that carried out in the alleged shelter of an official office. On the contrary, I suggest that a mind freed from the necessity of expending energy on competition has all its energies left to concentrate on the work for which it was trained, whereas a large part of the private practitioner's time, unless he be among the few whose reputations are such as to attract a continuity of works, is taken up with securing commissions, and therefore less time is employed in executing them.

It has sometimes been said that security breeds indolence, and therefore in an architect bad architecture, but it will be a hopeless day for the art and profession of architecture when it can be said with truth that quality of work depends on the financial gain which attaches to it. In other words, can it not still be said that pride in creation is a greater incentive to good work than remuneration?

I may perhaps be permitted, without impertinence, to refer to my own entry into municipal life as an example of why architects have selected and are selecting this particular branch of service. My training was a normal one—articles, part-time training at a local university, employment in a private office with the usual frenzied activity in the way of competitions and R.I.B.A. prizes. Then came the War, after which there appeared to me to be a choice of two courses. The first was obviously private practice in the provinces, executing small works, private houses, possibly a bank, or hotel, and additions to local factories. On the other hand, the local authority, as indeed all of them throughout the country, was carrying out many interesting works for education purposes, the health services and housing, which had become a national problem, and it seemed to me that the choice lay between a varying income made from small works, many of them uninteresting, with occasionally something to enthuse over, and a life engaged in a large variety of works, all of them interesting and inspiring, with sufficient remuneration to keep the wolf on the right side of the door.

In other words, it was apparent even twenty years ago that by far the greatest bulk of interesting buildings was necessarily in the hands of Government departments and local authorities, and the only way to have the opportunity of carrying out some of them was to join the service of one of the authorities to which they were entrusted.

It is now clear that the process which I then envisaged has been constantly amplified in variety and interest, and the system is now not only confined to local authorities and Government departments, but banks, cinemas

and large business concerns have all adopted it, and as it seems to me to be a natural product of the age in which we live, it cannot be stemmed or stopped, and it therefore remains for the profession to see that conditions of service are such as to induce the very best available talent to enter this branch of the profession in order to carry out with added efficiency the ever-increasing volume of work now being entrusted to salaried architects.

Patrons, Employers and Responsibilities

Architecture has always depended upon its patrons, as it is clear that, without a client, the architect's dreams would remain where they commence—on the backs of envelopes or, at the farthest, on the drawing board. The patrons have changed from age to age, and it can be said that at present the most influential patron is the Government, and the local authorities which it controls.

The way in which Government control has placed the burden of housing, education and the medical services in increasing quantity on the local authorities has undoubtedly stimulated the increase in numbers and quality of official architects.

To local authorities familiar with the idea of employing such permanent officials as the town clerk, medical officer, and surveyor, who have been statutory officers from the beginning of local government as we now know it, it was an obvious step to enlarge the scope of their activities by the direct employment of architects.

It also became apparent that to have an architect permanently employed was an asset in that he could be consulted on all forms of town planning and tentative schemes of development upon which an authority would hesitate to employ a private architect, with the result that without the official architect many schemes worth close consideration would never be considered at all, and the schemes that were carried out would probably be handed over to the private architect in such a form that it was too late for his full advice to be taken.

Another point which is doubtless a considerable advantage to local authorities is that the official architect is constantly liable for the maintenance of the buildings which he has designed. His duties do not terminate at the expiration of the maintenance period, and he is therefore more particularly interested in the cost of maintenance than if his work terminated with the handing over of the completed building to the owners.

A further reason which prompted local authorities to adopt the possibility of direct employment was the question of cost, as it is undoubtedly much more economical to run a successful office than to employ individual architects for each scheme. I do not believe this latter to be of great importance, because the average local authority is interested not only in economy, but in discovering the best way to carry out its many services, and when an authority discovers that it is not

paying sufficient to demand the services it requires, my experience is that it will not hesitate to pay more.

The profession of architecture on behalf of a corporate body has obviously many problems and difficulties. The first and most obvious, at least to the profession, is the practice—which I regret to say is prevalent in many quarters—of entrusting architectural problems to the care of a surveyor or engineer, who in turn employs architects to carry out work in his name. This method has no doubt been adopted on account of the reluctance to start up a new office through fear of additional costs, aided by the tenacity of some local government officials who are able to persuade their councils of their capability of carrying out work for which they have no training. Only constant efforts on the part of the leaders of the profession can remedy this condition. Councils cannot be driven, but I am satisfied that, when they awaken to a correct course, they are not slow to pursue it.

Variety of Work and Freedom for Assistants

It is also clear that one of the difficulties of the system lies in the increasing quantity and variety of works carried out by official architects. It is possible, of course, for a man supplied with work from an endless source to become dull and unenterprising, to take the easy course, to design a school like the one he did a few years ago, or a hospital based on some stock pattern. Some people have an individual virility which can successfully overcome this condition of things, but I suggest that the soundest way to keep an office alive and vital is by the help of new and vigorous young blood in the way of assistants. This suggestion is not intended to conjure up a vision of hardworked underpaid ghosts to be drained of ideas and then disposed of. The correct way, in my opinion, is to give each assistant a considerable amount of freedom, the control of his job, and to acknowledge the work he does in an open and proper manner. If this is done, the office will remain alive, its ideas will keep up with the times, its vigour will be unimpaired, and its personnel will continue to keep that frame of mind which is conducive to good work. This slackening off or running down is by no means confined to official offices, as many examples could be given of private offices which had a brilliant hey-day, and finally lapsed into obscurity owing to the inability of the principal to see that he himself was unable to provide all the power necessary to keep the organisation vigorous.

There is another aspect of the official architect's work which may be good or bad according to circumstances. He is fortunate, for instance, in having no individual client with pernicky ideas. He does not come across the lady who wishes him to design a house round a set of curtains, or a fireplace which she has seen in some ruin, but he has a Council composed of a varying number of persons, and, subject to the limita-

tions of cost, he is free to design a building which satisfies the conditions imposed by its users. I presume that no one will deny that the ideal job for the architect is the one in which the client states with great precision the use to which his building is to be put, and the cost which he is prepared to meet, and there is no doubt that, speaking generally, local authorities are clients of this type.

Mr. Goodhart-Rendel, in his address yesterday, expressed the opinion that there was danger in the possibility of the architect assuming more than his proper duty.

Instead of being supplied with precise requirements he might presume to dictate to unknown and therefore inarticulate clients.

I agree that such a condition might be unfortunate, but it does not obtain in local government work.

It should be remembered that the Lady X of the President's story is definitely articulate both as an individual and in the mass. If democracy means anything, it means government of the people by the people, and certainly in my part of the world the voice of the voter is heard and heeded, and the architect to a local authority is not in a position to give the people who will inhabit his buildings what he thinks they ought to have, but what they most require.

The difficulty referred to is, of course, inherent in local government work, owing to the comparative remoteness of the clients, but the official architect is in a very favourable position compared with his private practitioner brother in being in closer and more constant touch with the problem, and is more likely, therefore to provide the correct answer.

The Work: Amount and Kind

It is difficult to say what volume of work is carried out by official architects, but in the provinces it certainly exceeds that executed by private practitioners, and it is not an exaggeration to say that in some towns not less than 75 per cent. of the important works are carried out by the local authority. This means, of course, that the official architect is leaving his mark very strongly on local work, and his responsibility to the community is correspondingly very high. Some localities may have the unfortunate experience of awakening some day to the fact that their town has been covered by spots of mediocrity, but I suggest that generally speaking, this is not happening, that as one goes about the country it is frequently the building carried out by the Office of Works or the local authority which is noticeable by possessing a quality superior to that of its neighbours.

I have said very little under the precise heads of this paper, but I now propose to do so, and take the word "Work" to mean the kind of work which is carried out; "Duties" the way in which it is carried out; and "Responsibility" the chief overriding duty which

every architect owes to his client, his profession and to posterity.

The kind of work varies, of course, with the locality and type of authority, and as I happen to have been engaged during the greater part of my career with the work of a county borough, I propose to deal very shortly with the matter from that angle.

In a normal county borough the architect designs buildings for education purposes, including open-air schools, nursery schools, infants, juniors, senior and secondary schools, and this part of the work probably accounts for at least 50 per cent. of his output. The medical services provide a large quantity of work, including general, mental, T.B., and infectious diseases hospitals, and of recent years medical clinics for maternity and child welfare services.

Housing may also prove to be a considerable undertaking, and I think it can be said without doubt that a valuable contribution to the welfare of the population has been made by those architects of local authorities who have designed municipal houses not only fit to live in on decently planned estates, but at a price which the less fortunate of our citizens can afford to pay.

The remaining services in a borough provide a large quantity of work, and these include market undertakings, transport services, public assistance buildings, electricity undertakings, including stations and showrooms, and also police buildings and courts, and other municipal buildings not covered by any of these heads.

It is sometimes suggested that this is too large a variety of work to be carried out by one architect. I maintain, however, that this is not so, and if the office is run in the way I have outlined, and for the larger works consultants in those spheres generally outside the designer's province are employed, there appears to be no reason why the variety of work should form a stumbling-block. There seems to me to be more danger of an architect carrying out stereotyped and uninteresting work if he is employed solely on one type of building than if he is undertaking a large variety of designs at the same time.

Consultants

The reference to consultants reminds me of a further development in the larger public offices, in that the architect includes on his staff engineering assistants dealing with mechanical, electrical, heating and structural matters. This, on the face of it, appears to be a reversal of the condition mentioned earlier, when objection was registered to the employment of architects by engineers, but I submit that this is the natural outcome of the accepted system, and varies in no way from the accepted practice of employing consultants for fees on works controlled by the architect.

It will be realised, however, that there is an essential difference between the employment by the architect of engineers, and the reverse case.

The architect is the designer and creator of the building, and it is proper that he should have the assistance of experts in matters of detail, and the principle is not affected whether these experts are engaged directly and permanently, or by way of fees on individual works.

On the other hand, the engineer or surveyor is not a designer of buildings, and it is, therefore, not reasonable that he should employ architects to carry out work for which he takes the credit.

The employment of quantity surveyors is another factor which varies in different offices. I understand that most official architects number quantity surveyors on their staff. Some of the larger ones continue to put out their work to quantity surveyors in private practice. I believe that the pros and cons of each method are too well known to require any further comment here.

You will not require from me a long story as to the way in which the work is carried out, particularly as my audience is composed mostly of architects, and those who are official architects will need no reminder of their ordinary daily duties. I may be permitted, however, to make one or two observations, as the idea is still prevalent in some quarters that official architects spend what they like, and how they like, both on the running of their own department and on the individual works they carry out.

Official Expenditure and Contractors

To deal with the latter first. All expenditure is controlled both by the local authority and by some overriding Government department. Contracts are not entered into until both are satisfied that the building in question is essential; that it is properly designed, and that it is to be built at a price which is considered reasonable, and, in addition, during the progress of the works the Corporation and Government department concerned take a keen interest in the expenditure of all P.C. sums, and the whole of the accounts are audited by the local authority, and in some instances, notably education work, by the Government department concerned.

It should also be noted that in the case of large and important municipal works the Ministry of Health hold public inquiries, in order that all points of view may be registered and the general public have an opportunity of expressing their approval or otherwise of projected schemes for which they will, of course, be required to pay.

Indeed, I think most official architects, instead of spending as freely as is generally supposed, spend some time persuading their local authority and Government departments that a quart cannot be persuaded into a pint pot, and that you cannot erect a building which ought to cost 1s. 3d. for 1s. per cu. ft.

I have merely sketched the control which is exercised, but, in addition, there are committees which function on behalf of the Council, all of which have to be satisfied

before any scheme reaches the stage I have just outlined.

With regard to the cost of running the office, this, contrary to public conception, is a matter in which the local authority takes considerable interest, and by cost I mean the whole cost. It is usual to believe that cost means salaries and little more, but in compiling the cost of carrying out works, salaries, rent, rates, lighting, heating, transport, equipment and minor expenses are all included, and any suggested addition when the annual estimates are presented is always met with minute scrutiny and frequently strong opposition.

The mention of P.C. sums reminds me that there appears to be some division of opinion concerning the treatment of sub-contractors. Some of my colleagues appear to think that the R.I.B.A. Form of Contract is designed to make a present to the general contractor of 2½ per cent. on the value of all work carried out by sub-contractors, and that it is much more business-like and equitable to attempt to save these discounts by letting all the sub-contracts as separate contracts and placing a variety of unrelated sub-contractors on a building alleged to be in the control of the general contractor.

This seems to me to be an incorrect idea, as the intention of the clauses in the contract appears to fit the modern conception of the best method in which to erect a large building.

Conditions may not have been, and probably were not, the same throughout the country, but up to the beginning of this century in the North of England no building was let to a single contractor. Each trade was dealt with separately, and a whole series of contracts divided into bricklayer, mason, carpenter, plasterer, painter, etc., were let under the control of the architect. About forty years ago this method changed, and we had general contractors who employed every trade, and who entered into a complete contract to carry out the work, and at this date it was true to say that sub-contracting was practically non-existent. The wheel turned again, and the largest contracts are now let to builders who are in the main organisers. They rarely employ directly more than excavators, bricklayers, and possibly carpenters and joiners if they happen to have a good joiner's shop. All the remaining trades are sublet. As an example: on a building upon which I am now engaged, costing £200,000, the amount of work carried out by the general contractor employing his own men is not more than £80,000.

On the face of it, it appears that we are in the same position as we were forty years ago, but this is not so. Building has, of course, become very much more complicated, and whereas in the old days it was possible for the architect with the assistance of able craftsmen to control the work himself, there are now so many complications that I suggest that this is not now possible. By this, I do not mean to infer that any part of the essential duty of the architect in taking the responsibility for every detail of the building should be relegated to

the builder, but that the general contractor, who is responsible for the organisation of the work under the architect, should assume a proper responsibility for the sub-contractors in the same way that he formerly controlled his own directly employed workmen, and it is for this work that he should, in my opinion, be properly paid.

I may perhaps at this point be allowed to interpose a note concerning the President's expressed fear in his paper yesterday that there is a danger that the R.I.B.A. Council might come to be governed by factions and parties similar to the political pattern. I am sure that it will be unfortunate for the Institute if this should ever be so, but though I cannot claim to speak for the whole body of official architects, my personal opinion is that there is no solid body of opinion inside the Institute which would favour such a course, and that the vast body of members have the interest of our art and profession too closely at heart to allow any weakening by following the political model.

If my suggestion is correct that official architects and private practitioners have in common the welfare of the profession, to the exclusion of minor differences in outlook, it seems to me that government by factions is not possible.

If, however, these differences are to be emphasised, from whatever source, some form of internal dissension appears to be inevitable.

The matter must rest with the sound judgment and common sense of those to whom the destinies of the R.I.B.A. are entrusted.

If anything is certain in this uncertain world it is that the general body of architects is better trained than at any other time in our history, and whether the design of buildings for public services continues to be carried out by architects in the future who are paid salaries, or some circumstance puts the work into the hands of those privately engaged, my belief is that they will certainly be executed by a body of men whose chief concern is the art they were fortunate enough to practice.

If the works of the present day do not compare favourably with the best of our past history we shall at least produce buildings which are truly representative of the age in which we live. If we succeed in this we shall have accomplished our duty, because I submit that the architect, like the artist in literature, painting, or sculpture, is the delineator of his age.

As it is said that the man in the street is supposed to have the Government he deserves, so it is with his architecture, and the awakening interest in civic architecture leads me to hope that the demand for quality will increase, and that official architects with the support and encouragement of this Institute will be found capable of supplying this demand with adequacy and honour to the profession to which they are proud to belong.

VOTE OF THANKS AND DISCUSSION

A vote of thanks to Mr. Aslin was proposed by Mr. H. G. SIMMS [A.] (D.T.P.), M.R.I.A.I., M.T.P.I., *Housing Architect, Dublin Corporation*.

In rising to propose a vote of thanks to Mr. Aslin, I doubt if any remarks of mine will be conducive to the vigorous debate or criticism which he appears keen to stimulate, because, due partly to the fact that I am one of Dublin's official architects, but principally due to conviction, I find myself in complete agreement with the views and conclusions expressed by him in his very able and informative paper. Consequently, if vigorous debate is to be the order of the day, I hope a few advocates of the private practitioner system will hasten into the fray.

Undoubtedly the formation of official architectural departments has increased considerably over the last twenty years in these islands, but not always at the expense of private practitioners, as explained by our President. Sometimes, admittedly, this has occurred at the expense of our brother professionals, the engineers, who have been inclined to "poach on our preserves" to a far greater extent than is either reasonable or good for the Mistress Art. But there is no need for any architect to apologise for this somewhat overdue correction in the balance of spheres of professional activities, and there still remains room for improvement in this regard.

Modern forms of progressive government, whether of the various democratic or totalitarian brands, all call for an increasing amount of State control, ownership, and the development of large-scale public works and other activities, as compared with those, say, of fifty or sixty years ago, which, in turn, has increased the demand for the expansion of existing, or formation of new, official departments, particularly for those dealing with building works.

I think it will be admitted that, generally speaking, these changes are steps in the right direction, leading ultimately to an improvement in civic architecture and town planning, provided, of course, that the official departments concerned are kept alive and vigorous by some such means as suggested by Mr. Aslin.

Official architects of large-scale planning works not only design buildings as such, but are also provided with opportunities to design whole street elevations, opportunities not often presented to private practitioners. It is for this reason that I venture to suggest that the complete official architect of to-day should also possess a competent knowledge of civic design.

The complete architectural department of to-morrow should, as suggested by Mr. Aslin, include on its staff the various engineering specialists or consultants and quantity surveyors, the latter being most important, because, in my opinion, I do not think any large architectural department can function with a high degree of efficiency without a permanent quantity surveying section being attached to it. This section need not necessarily be large enough to deal with the whole architectural output of the department, which will naturally vary from time to time. When necessary it could be supplemented by the employment of private practitioners.

I agree with Mr. Aslin that to complete the picture permanent maintenance of buildings should be under the control of the department responsible for their erection in the first place. Maintenance, as you know, is divided into two distinct categories, one for preservation and the other for appearance,

and experience gained in both these categories can be enlightening, often causing changes in the planning, design and specification of similar future buildings, to the ultimate benefit of the public purse.

It is this specialised knowledge, accumulated through years of practical experience in dealing with a variety of buildings and sites, often abnormally difficult and troublesome, and other similar factors, which give the official architectural department an advantage over that of most private practitioners, and it is probably for this and other reasons that many large private concerns have established their own salaried architectural departments in recent years. Even certain private practitioners are finding that specialisation in particular types of buildings is an advantage in building up a remunerative practice under present conditions.

It is interesting news to me to hear that the present Scottish practice of trade sub-contracts was in vogue in the north of England up to forty years ago. In Dublin to-day, at least so far as housing works are concerned, the one contract system is the rule, sub-letting being confined to one or two trades in exceptional cases. This is partly due to the antagonistic attitude adopted generally here by the trade unions to sub-letting. On large types of buildings, sub-contracting for certain specialist work is essential, with the main contractor shouldering ultimate responsibility for them to the architect.

According to one rather well-known member of our profession, the only gentlemen-architects left to-day are the official ones, owing to the fact that, apparently, they do not have to expend any energy in securing commissions. They are supposed to just sit around and wait for jobs to be handed out to them on a plate, but my experience during the past seven or eight years has been rather more hectic, jobs being thrown out by the bucketful would be a more apt description with the expectation that the work is to commence on site within two months of receipt of said bucket, and sooner if possible, or everybody wants to know the reason why!

However, my staff and I find this rather a stimulant. Work executed under pressure often probably produces just as good results as that carried out in the "home from home" atmosphere sometimes considered to be prevailing in the average official abode.

I have very great pleasure in proposing a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Aslin for his most constructive and well-composed paper.

Mr. J. M. FAIRWEATHER, M.R.I.A.I., *Chief Architect to the Board of Works, Dublin*, seconding the vote of thanks, said: Sir, I have been called upon at a moment's notice to second the vote of thanks to Mr. Aslin, but I do so with great pleasure. I have had no opportunity of looking over his paper beforehand, and he has gone so minutely into all the ramifications of the official architect's life that I feel I can hardly hope to criticise it in any detail, but it appears to me to be a most comprehensive and well-balanced paper, covering, I think, all aspects of the official architect's life. There is no doubt in my mind that the growing number of official architects proves that the need existed for them. I suppose that the real reason for their popularity with Government departments and municipal bodies, the having of architects on tap, so to speak, is the ease with which they can suggest to them to carry out some scheme which they have in their minds. There is a danger, I think, that authorities expect work to be considered,

planned, and estimated much too rapidly for the architect's peace of mind, whereas, they stand in so much awe of the private practitioner that they would think twice before they would call him in and engage his services. There is no doubt that the practice has come to stay. I am very much struck with Mr. Aslin's arguments on the need for the official architect, and I was impressed by what he said about the advantages and dangers of the official architect's position. I think I can hardly say any more now, and would rather listen to those who came here to listen to and probably to criticise the paper. I have great pleasure in seconding Mr. Simms' vote of thanks to the lecturer.

Mr. HUBERT LIDBETTER, *Chairman of the R.I.B.A. Board of Architectural Education*: There are one or two points in the paper on which I would like enlightenment. I would like more information as to the employment of quantity surveyors in the official architect's office as against the employment of outside quantity surveyors.

There is another point in which I think the official architect has a great advantage over the private practitioner, and that is maintenance. When there is anything wrong with a job, the private architect hears of it right away, but he seldom receives the bouquets. The official architect has a great advantage over the private practitioner in that. He is able to keep a close look-out on the building he has put up, and if it has failed, if they ever do fail, he will know how to deal with it the next time.

Mr. SIMMS: I would like to explain that in Dublin the quantity surveying profession is distinct and separate from that of the architectural profession, but I believe that that is not so in England. That is why I emphasised the fact that a permanent section should be attached, at least here in Dublin, because of the fact that the two professions are completely distinct.

Mr. ERNEST E. MORGAN (*representing the County Borough of Swansea*): I have had the advantage of having looked over Mr. Aslin's paper before I entered the room. I am much in accord with most of it, but I would like to refer to your opening remarks, Mr. Chairman, with which I agree. You said that if the official architects were not official architects they would be in private practice. If I were not an official architect I should probably be in private practice.

There is a point one speaker mentioned about quantity surveyors. I think that it is most necessary to have a quantity surveyor's department in the architect's office. We employ them in Swansea, but we supplement them by putting out the big jobs to outside quantity surveyors.

In my part of the world, where architect departments are in charge of architects, and not of engineers or surveyors, if there is a building of monumental character to be erected, it is the custom to suggest that there should be a competition among architects, but when an engineer is in full charge, he is quite competent to do any building, no matter how monumental in character.

The cost of maintenance of buildings has also been mentioned. I have gone into that very carefully, and I find that houses built thirty-five years ago, which were built by architects, whether official or in private practice, are much more economic to maintain, and that schemes carried out by estate agents, engineers, etc., are the more costly. I can prove that very definitely. I think it should be a point with local authorities to see that the officers they are about to appoint are thoroughly

efficient and that they should be in full charge of their own department and not under the Borough Surveyor, or any other officer.

One great advantage of the position of an official architect is this, that he has the chance of directing his council from the inception of a scheme. In schemes I have carried out, I set aside at the beginning sites for schools and hospitals, and probably twenty years after these buildings went up in their appointed place.

When I was appointed to my present office in Swansea some twenty-eight years ago, I found an architect trying to carry out the erection of a school in conditions which excited my sympathy for him. The council had to build the school on a site where the land sloped one in eight, and the council blamed the architect because the cost was 25 per cent. higher than the normal cost of a school, which was most unfair. If we have a chance of choosing sites twenty years ahead, we can build schools and hospitals in a very normal and practical way.

Mr. SIMMS: I would like to try to broaden the discussion a little on the question of town-planning. In the Dublin Corporation, at least in recent years, owing to the creation of separate Architectural Departments, the City Engineer's Department do not attempt to carry out works of an architectural nature. Likewise, the architectural sections never dream of interfering with purely engineering matters, except in the cases, say, of bridge design, where the architects are requested to collaborate with the engineers to complete the design.

I find, however, that this rather clear definition of activity is not quite so distinct in the town-planning field, where the engineer is rather inclined to have too much to say on matters that are purely architectural, and my own view is that if anyone should have the first, and possibly the last, word about town-planning, it is the architect town-planner that should have it, with the engineer and others fitting in between these stages.

A SPEAKER: Mr. Aslin has raised the question of the 2½ per cent. for contractors. It is a very important matter. The case is this, that the general contractor is responsible for the whole contract. He has to pay down a large sum for sureties, and he has to pay for insurance and compensation clauses, and for that he asks 2½ per cent. and that gives him full control over the contract. If you have sub-contractors working against one another on the same job you will have a chaotic state. If you have one man in charge of the job from start to finish you pay him an extra 2½ per cent., and I think you are getting away with it very well. There is also another question about sub-contractors which is very important. Sub-contractors themselves should be under a very definite contract to the general contractor, because where there is no such contract they do not care whether the job is finished on time or not. Every sub-contractor should sign the contract provided by the Institute in the same terms as the general contractor.

On Mr. Aslin's paper I agree very thoroughly with all he said from the official architect's point of view, and I hope the Institute will back us up. There is no question of any disloyalty, but we hope the Institute will back us up in every way. I tender Mr. Aslin my very heartfelt thanks.

The CHAIRMAN: Before calling on Mr. Aslin to reply, I would like to make a few remarks. On the question of the control of sub-contracts by the general contractor it is such an

obvious thing to do one wonders we did not think of it much sooner. In Dublin the practice is for the general contractor to enter into a sub-contract with the sub-contractor. The contractor, in pricing the bill, may add to each provisional sum for profit and attendance. Tenders are obtained by the architect from sub-contractors and the general contractor is allowed 2½ per cent. on the amount of the accepted tender. The general contractor really has a double profit, if profit is included in pricing the bill. If profit is not added, the presumption is that prices for other items cover it. In nearly all cases it is very necessary to have the main contractor responsible for the sub-contractor, and we have got to that way of working here now. I have experience of both methods, and when sub-contractors are not in control of the general contractor, if architraves are damaged and walls are scraped it is difficult to fix responsibility, and this raises a difficult question for the architect. On the other hand, when the main contractor is responsible, the position is perfectly clear. We all agree with Mr. Simms that architects should town-plan. If that were put as a resolution here I am sure that it would be passed with acclamation, and if we could convince engineers and other people that that was so we would have done a good day's work for the profession. There are, perhaps, exceptional engineers who could town-plan, but their general training and work does not adequately fit them for it. We are trained to plan from the word go; if we cannot plan we are not architects at all.

We must always remember that there is no division in the profession. We are all one, and we should all work together. I have always held that and I have never had difficulty in working with official architects, and, I am glad to say, with any colleagues in the profession.

I do not think there is anything else I could say now. Like the judge in Pickwick, I am unable to decipher my own notes. I will now put the vote of thanks, and I am sure you will pass it with acclamation.

Mr. ASLIN, replying, said: First allow me to thank you very much indeed for the very charming reception you gave to what was, I fear, a very dull exposition. It was particularly charming because you might have been enjoying the sunshine instead of listening to me. I want to offer personal thanks to Mr. Robinson for the delightful way in which he has presided and for the very charming things he said. If all private practitioners were of Mr. Robinson's mind we official architects would have nothing to talk about.

I must add my thanks to Mr. Simms and Mr. Fairweather for the way in which they proposed and seconded the vote of thanks.

With regard to the question of quantity surveyors I think it is proper to say that in no part of England, as far as I know, is quantity surveying looked upon as anything other than an entirely different profession from that of architecture. Many years ago, in an office with which I was associated, and I believe in all small private offices, it was the practice for the architect to do quantities as well, but I imagine that is practically dead. The whole point is, I think, as to whether there is any advantage in employing quantity surveyors who are quantity surveyors in your own office, and I believe that there is an advantage in so doing. On the other hand, the largest official office in England, the Office of Works, does nothing of the kind, but sends the whole of its work out to a series of outside quantity surveyors. The advantage I find

is this: that if you are going to be fair to the quantity surveyor you must send him a complete set of drawings and specifications so that he may properly carry out his work. In my office we are frequently asked to produce schemes and tenders in a comparatively short time, and it is much easier with the quantity surveyor in the next office to give him drawings at a much earlier stage and to instruct him by notes and word of mouth. You can do that more rapidly than if you had to wait until the whole set was complete. The Office of Works, however, apparently finds no difficulty in adopting the other course.

On the question of maintenance, it is, of course, of great advantage to the official architect that he lives near his job. There are disadvantages, also, because ten years after a job is finished somebody will rush in and point out some comparatively minor defect which he rakes up to your disadvantage, but you do learn an enormous amount about the behaviour of various materials over comparatively long periods, and if you take advantage of this knowledge you ultimately produce buildings of a particular type where the maintenance is as low as possible. This is necessary because corporations have to budget an annual amount which is spent on maintenance, and their hope is, that no matter how many additional buildings they have to look after, that budget will never be materially increased. There is considerable reluctance to increase the annual charge to spread over the new buildings which they have acquired during the preceding year.

In other words, the cost of maintenance is a very important item, and the architect who is responsible for maintaining his own buildings is in a very good position to keep the annual charges at a minimum.

I only mentioned the matter of the 2½ per cent. for sub-contractors because I was astonished some time ago, when discussing the matter with some of my brother officials, to find that they did not agree with it. We always used to put in an item "Add for Profit" below the "Prime Cost" item, but our experience was that it was never put in. The contractor was keen on obtaining the job, but then, when the job was let, he spent considerable time, by various means, in securing discounts from the sub-contractor, and I personally welcome the R.I.B.A. form which allowed the contractor 2½ per cent. on the amount so spent, and in my view it is a very sensible way of doing it.

I hesitate to say much about engineers and architects beyond my comments in the paper, because the matter is not really within my own experience. Quite a long time ago I worked in an office controlled by an engineer, but largely owing to the extremely fair and equitable way in which he acknowledged the part I played in his office, I had a very happy time. The trouble appears to arise when an architectural department in a local authority assumes such proportions that it ought to be a separate entity, but is in fact controlled by an engineer. The matter as I see it can only be altered by the realisation of the local authority that it is not the proper and equitable way of carrying out architectural works. Many authorities have changed their methods in recent years, and it is to be hoped that the process will be continuous.

I must thank you all again, and particularly you, sir, for presiding, and you who have taken the trouble to come here this morning.

Thank you very much indeed.



From left to right : The German Minister, The Archbishop of Dublin, Mrs. A. W. Barton, The Lord Mayor, Mr. Goodhart-Rendel, The Archbishop of Tuam, Mr. J. J. Robinson, Mrs. J. J. Robinson, The Minister for Education

THE BANQUET

The banquet was held in the historic Round Room of the Mansion House on Thursday evening. Mr. John J. Robinson, P.R.I.A.I., presided over a gathering, which counting members and guests numbered almost three hundred.

Grace was said by Most Rev. Dr. Gilmartin, Archbishop of Tuam.

The toast of *Ireland* was proposed by Mr. HUBERT LIDBETTER [F.], *Chairman of the R.I.B.A. Board of Architectural Education*, who said : I have been given the task of proposing this toast, a delightful task to me, because I am perhaps the only Irishman among the English architects who have come here from England. First of all, I want to felicitate, or as "Handy Andy" would have said facilitate, the R.I.A.I. on having accomplished one hundred years of useful work.

In proposing the toast of Ireland, I do not propose to enlarge on the beauties of Ireland, as I am being followed by Mr. Tomas O'Derrig, Minister for Education, who will, no doubt, speak about those beauties much better than I can.

I call upon all Irishmen and women, and upon all Englishmen and women, to honour the toast of a happy and prosperous Ireland, and perhaps in the fullness of time, and in the fullest and widest sense, an Ireland united and undivided.

Mr. O'DERRIG, Minister for Education, who spoke first in Irish, replied : Mr. President, Your Graces, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,—It gives me great pleasure to be present on the occasion of the banquet which the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland is holding to celebrate the centenary of its establishment. I would like to congratulate the

members of the Institute on having completed the first hundred years, and to hope that in the future the Institute will continue to do the good work that it has been doing for the people of this country. I would like also to wish our friends from Great Britain a hearty *Cead Mile Failte*, which, in case you do not know the meaning, is the Irish phrase for "A Hundred Thousand Welcomes," and is the characteristic Irish salutation to visitors to our country.

I hope you will have a very pleasant time in Ireland, that the weather will favour you, and that you will be able to see the beauty spots around Ireland, so that you will be able to convey to your friends across the water the glad tidings that we will be always glad to see them.

I do not think it is really necessary for me to do more in replying to this toast than to congratulate the Institute on the happy occasion they are now celebrating, but perhaps as Minister for Education I should say that personally I was very pleased when the Institute were good enough to ask me to be associated in my official capacity with their work. I have not had a great deal to do with architects but I happen to be associated with the Institute in one way, and I congratulate the members on the work they have done as an association in maintaining the standard of public taste in this country, which is so necessary, on the excellent work they have been doing to form public opinion on matters of interest to the architectural profession, and for the assistance they have given to the Town Planning movement. I hope that the result of the work they are doing in co-operation with the other authorities concerned will mean that Ireland will be still more beau-

tiful, that our capital city will be improved and that our countryside will be spared some of the atrocities (I think that is what I should call them) that seem to be visiting the countryside elsewhere. I hope that our national Institute of Architects will feel always that the national tradition should characterise Irish architecture. There is a great trend in architecture towards modern styles, but we in this country have always prided ourselves on having a certain outlook with regard to matters which, for want of a better expression, I will call spiritual matters, and we believe that spiritual values count more than material values. I hope that in the realm of architecture, and in the transformation of their ideas into stone and concrete, our Irish architects will always feel that spiritual values will transcend all others, and in that way, I am sure, our future Irish architecture will be worthy of our national traditions.

The toast of "*The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland*" was proposed by Mr. GOODHART-RENDEL, who said: At the end of this speech I shall ask you to drink to the health of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland. I announce this now, not because I fear I may not reach the end in safety, but in order to give special emphasis to the toast which is my excuse for standing up. This is a historic occasion, a dinner at which there ought perhaps to be a cake surrounded by a hundred candles. The ancient society that is our host begins this year the second of what we hope and believe will be many centuries of useful existence. The Royal Institute of British Architects has come to do it honour.

This centenary festivity must make a proud moment for your President, Mr. Robinson. When the history of architectural institutes has become so long that all the presidential names between centenaries have to be left out, his name will stand next to Lord Fitzgerald's and Vesce's, just as in London Sir Giles Scott's name will stand next to Lord de Grey's. Only when history comes to be summarised in millenaries will Mr. Robinson's and Sir Giles's names run any risk of being forgotten. Moreover, age is perhaps the least of the qualities that make the Irish Institute a body whose presidentship confers great distinction. Although I learn from the handbook of this conference that the Irish Institute was referred to at its foundation as a "branch" of the British Institute, each has had a markedly independent existence. The alliance formally contracted between them half a century ago has left the integrity of the younger partner entirely unaffected.

A story is told in my family of an English clergyman summoned to the deathbed of a lady who confessed that she had long been consumed by a secret passion for him. Without some return from him she could not die in peace. He embraced her affectionately, after which she got well. Now, during life a president's attitude towards the society for which he speaks should be impersonal and correct. There can be no doubt, however, as to the finality of my presidential deathbed;

so that I think that I can now reveal the depth of my infatuation with the Royal Institute of British Architects without fearing any embarrassing sequel.

I observe in the list of your Presidents that the sentence passed on them when they are elected used to be not two years hard, as with us, but three. Mr. Robinson tells me that the last of these three is in future to be commuted, but I gather that he still must wait some months before he can compete with me in brazenly revealing the secrets of his heart. I can, however, say now (without paying for space) that the Institute in Portland Place is world renowned both for the beauty of her house and that of her members. Her virtue is legendary. Her learning is prodigious, her age considerable, but remarkably well concealed. To her come men from the far corners of the globe bearing gifts—gold chains and silver cups—plaster busts and exceptionally large books. Modestly but proudly she exposes herself to the veneration of her worshippers and the venom of her rivals. At her word Government departments are believed to tremble. More often than not she has a balance at the bank.

A being, so courageous and so honourable, could never seek to avoid the responsibilities of parenthood; indeed, in incurring those responsibilities she has shown herself remarkably broadminded and obliging. Her sons, the Allied Societies, are her jewels; jewels of surprisingly various shapes and colours. Among them her mother-love makes no favourites, not even of those who bring home part of their wages. All equally are to her her own dutiful boys.

I challenge you, Mr. President, in your speech at the end of this year to do any better for your old lady than I have just done for mine. The two are so nearly related that many of the same words will do for either and I claim no copyright. I want, however, in proposing this toast to anticipate in all sincerity some of the tributes it will then be allowable for you to pay to the Society over which you have presided. I want to say that all the architectural visitors to this congress appreciate very fully the dignity and the distinguished record of the Irish Institute, their host. When Sir Richard Morrison expressed his confidence that, once the "just right" of architects "to public consideration shall have been admitted, . . . in our own efforts we shall find a security for its being maintained as it deserves," he foretold what the Society he had founded has to a great extent achieved. Altogether achieved it has not been yet either in Ireland or in England, but public education makes headway in the arts more slowly than in any other department of human knowledge. In Ireland your difficulties have been enormous; there is reference to them earlier in Sir Richard's speech, and everyone with a relevant knowledge of history will admit that Sir Richard did not exaggerate. The work of your first century has been most energetic and courageous and it is patent that your energy and courage are in no way diminished.

The trouble about embarking on words of praise is that you are bound to dry up so much sooner than you would if you were finding fault. Probably if I had taken the part of a venomous critic of the British Institute, I could have gone on all night in mere general animadversions. I dare say I could have found some one to prompt in as many strictures upon the Irish Institute, its record and its policy. As eulogist, however, I now find my generalities expended. I have tried to sketch for you pictures of the two Institutes, as faultless as are the originals, and must now call your admiring attention in greater detail to their attributes and activities.

At the present moment my old lady is accoutred as Bellona, as a strictly defensive Bellona occupied with what, in our land of euphemisms, is called not arming but "preparation" for what is called not "war" but an "emergency"! She is using architecture, the art that shelters man, for man's protection against other things than wind and weather; and she is making a sort of census of the man-power at her command. She is resisting the appeals of some of her votaries to create an "emergency" between herself and the Government; preferring to collaborate peacefully with departments in doing what is certainly useful, even if sometimes in her opinion insufficient, work. In all this she finds her children a great help.

In moments of relaxation, when she takes off her helmet and her gas mask, she reverts to her important duties as preceptress, sending attractive but highly educational exhibitions round the country in the hope of inducing in the general public a keener appetite than they have at present for the things she knows to be good for them. In this, if figures of attendance be a fair test, she is remarkably successful. Being a most conscientious woman, she also pays constant attention to the manners of her particular little charges, rapping smartly on their knuckles if they deal roughly with each other or sneak each other's commissions. When military and domestic duties have been satisfactorily performed, she frequently attires herself as Minerva, presiding over learned meetings and disseminating knowledge from an editorial office near her library.

I expect that Mr. Robinson could tell me that between the two sisters there is a very strong family likeness both in tastes and in habits. The elder has, of course, the disadvantage of living in London and not in Dublin, and of being in consequence more open to corruption by environment. The younger, on the other hand—but why should I suggest on this occasion that she can suffer from any disadvantage whatever? She is our hostess, she is entertaining us with the most lavish indulgence, and appears in our eyes to be lifted far above all mortal frailty.

What a very wonderful city Dublin is! I will not here speak of many things we are all seeing for ourselves, but will merely call the attention of my fellow-visitors to one building frequently overlooked, a building,

uncharacteristic of Dublin perhaps, but of very great intrinsic interest. The little basilica on St. Stephen's Green is of a design astonishing for its date—which was in the '60's of the last century. It was designed by that remarkable amateur architect, John Hungerford Pollen, and for novelty in invention can give a stone and a beating to most of the buildings that nowadays are dug up as "epoch-making." A relationship by marriage between the Pollen family and my own has within the last few weeks proved the happy means of obtaining for the Portland Place library some original drawings of Pollen's work, including probably one or two made for this basilica. I therefore mention the building as having for all of us some degree of topical interest.

This note in parenthesis is the last divagation I must allow myself before arriving finally at the goal of this rather frivolous rhetorical journey. Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of all its guests and particularly on behalf of its elder sister, I give you the toast of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, together with that of Mr. Robinson, its President.

The toast was replied to by Mr. JOHN J. ROBINSON, *President of the R.I.A.I.*, who said: Your Graces, Mr. Minister, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,—Feelings of pride assailed me as I listened to Mr. Goodhart-Rendel's toast; pride in our long records, in our pedigree and not least in our long standing and cordial association with the distinguished body which he represents.

I think the R.I.B.A. must take first place in point of time as a professional body operating under modern conditions for the recognition of the status of its members and for the improvement and betterment of architecture.

Other professional bodies have since been formed in the English-speaking world and elsewhere, and it would be interesting to know to what extent their foundation and general "make-up" benefited by the experience of the R.I.B.A.

We are complimented and highly honoured by your Council's decision to visit us here as a body on the occasion of our Centenary, and we wish particularly to thank the South-Eastern Society of Architects and its representatives here this evening for "standing down" to allow you gentlemen to come to Dublin.

I feel sure you are weary of speech-making, though I would never weary of listening to your President, because nothing I know of on this earth subtracts so much from listeners, or tends more to numb the brain. I do not propose to go on any longer. Fair words of praise for the R.I.B.A., and of admiration and regard for its President, clog up my thoughts. Let me say but this, that I, on behalf of those I represent, thank you with all my heart.

The toast of "*Our Guests*" was proposed by Mr. VINCENT KELLY [F.], B.Arch., F.R.I.A.I.

Life has been very difficult for me for the last five minutes, said Mr. Kelly. I was all right until Mr.

Goodhart-Rendel gave me what I thought was a delicate hint that I should be abstract and correct. A section of my audience knows that he is challenging something in me which is most remote from my instincts and from my character. Goodness knows, I was already in enough trouble, because in proposing the toast that stands over my name there was the greatest difficulty in my mind in deciding who precisely are our guests. That this difficulty did not escape the eagle eye of Sir Ian MacAlister was revealed to me by a glance at the correspondence he conducted with our energetic secretary, Mr. Cooke. It is not necessary for me to tell you what the nature of some part of that correspondence was, but I deem it sufficient to tell you I may at any time now retire from the profession of architect because there is a system of blackmail amongst architects which could keep my future life a prosperous one, without contravening any of the Acts of this realm! It was his suggestion that we should regard as our guests, not only those who are here by virtue of their position in Church and State, but also those who have braved the terrors of the Irish Sea to take part in this latest invasion of what some innocent people call "this distressful country."

We celebrate to-night the fact that there have been one hundred years of almost unbroken peace between the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland. Between our two countries, during that long period, there have been some slight differences, but perhaps both countries, looking at the past, might now say to one another in the words of the famous apology: "If there is anything I have done for which I am sorry, I am willing to be forgiven." As the years go by feelings of goodwill and affection grow stronger and stronger between the British and the Irish peoples, and perhaps this is progressively true in the last twenty years. Before that I am not so sure. I remember hearing years and years ago of an old Irish woman being asked how many children she had and she replied, "Two living and one in England!" There are many links between our two countries and not the least of these is the link between our respective societies of architects. Dr. Johnson said: "Sir, a man must keep his friendships in constant repair," and what is better to keep us in close and cordial friendship than meeting, conferring, dining and perhaps wining a little together, and what better gesture could have been given towards this great occasion for our Irish architects than that made by the British Institute in voluntarily merging their annual conference into—I might say subordinating it to—our Centenary celebrations.

We have with us to-night architects from every part of Great Britain—many of them are Presidents or ex-Presidents of many of the allied regional and provincial societies—and delegates from a great number of public bodies in England. From such a galaxy of distinguished men it would be invidious to select for mention

any name other than that of Mr. Charles Soutar, who will respond on behalf of this toast. Mr. Charles Soutar was for many years President of the Royal Incorporation of the Architects of Scotland and President of the Dundee Institute of Architects. He is the new chairman of the Allied Societies Conference and is about to become a Vice-President of the Royal Institute of British Architects. But we have other visitors here to-night. We have Mr. McWilliams, of the South African Institute of Architects; representing the Royal Victorian Society is Miss Lorna Phillips; the New Zealand Institute has sent its own President, Mr. Dawson; while the New South Wales Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute is represented by Mr. Hurd. We have also Mr. Stevenson, the new President of the Royal Ulster Society of Architects. His presence gratifies us not only on personal grounds, but also because we in the south of Ireland welcome any gesture to dispel the fate that has brooded over these two parts of our common country to frustrate their natural unity. We are glad to see here representatives of every class, every creed, and every political opinion; it is only becoming that we should present a united front to strangers. Whether, in the President's words, they come bearing arms or bearing gifts, we in Ireland have always given them a very warm reception.

Among our guests from nearer home, we welcome the distinguished members of the diplomatic corps, their Excellencies the German and Italian Ministers. We also welcome the representatives of other Governments accredited to our own. We greet the members of our own Government and the representatives of our Churches, of our Universities and of our learned societies. The choice of one to respond on their behalf is made easy by the presence here of one of the best known and best loved men in Ireland to-day, the first citizen of Dublin, our Lord Mayor. I understand this is the last banquet he will attend in his official capacity. It is a fitting end to an unprecedented term of office that he should attend a function promoted by architects, whose efforts he has so frequently invoked and not infrequently criticised! His life's work has been devoted to the service of the poor and especially to the improvement of their housing conditions. It is a privilege on the occasion of his retirement to pay tribute to his work for this country, for this city and for its citizens.

And now I come to the last but not the least important section of our guests. Need I say that I refer to the ladies. I am surprised, Mr. President, that you did not deem this portion of my trust to be one requiring separate and special treatment. I am afraid that the subject is much too delicate for my rude hands to touch or for my inexperienced lips to salute. Of one thing I can assure the ladies, that when they come amongst us there is a "feast of reason and flow of soul" and when they do not come there is a feast of unreason and a flow of bowl.

Mr. Chairman, I have now finished the three categories in which I have tried to classify our guests. Many of them are architects of great distinction and I should have liked to have had the opportunity of telling you about some of the important buildings for which they were responsible, but time does not permit and, besides, we architects would prefer to leave such commentaries to posterity, whose verdict is ever kind. The most many of us hope is that our most creditable achievements will attain a sweet smell in the nostrils of men while we ourselves are beginning to do the reverse.

As I began with a difficulty, I end with one. My present difficulty is how to justify the inclusion in the toast of "Our Guests" of one of our hosts, Mr. Goodhart-Rendel. Mr. Goodhart-Rendel's fame has preceded him in this country. We owe a good deal more than he knows to his work and to his writings. Our Minister for Education, Mr. Derrig, has not neglected the reasons for which he was appointed to his position and has educated us to the extent of explaining what "Cead Mile Failte" means. But perhaps he did not know that this toast of welcome was to be proposed by an O'Ceallaigh (O'Kelly), because he would have gone on to say that "Cead Mile Failte" was only "in the ha'penny place" compared with "Failte Ui Ceallaigh," which only the Kings of Hy-Maine, or their descendants, could deliver. To Mr. Goodhart-Rendel and his friends of the Royal Institute of British Architects I offer a "Failte Ui Ceallaigh," not only on this occasion but as often as he and his colleagues "come back to Erin."

I give you the toast of "Our Guests," coupled with the names of Mr. Charles Soutar and the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor.

Mr. CHARLES G. SOUTAR [F.] : Mr. President, Your Graces, Mr. Minister, Your Excellencies, My Lord Mayor, Mr. Vincent Kelly, ladies and gentlemen,—This is no place for me. Here am I, a mere lowland Scot, dour, dumb, perfectly sober, and without any of Mr. Kelly's Celtic gift of the gab. Here am I, on my hind legs, trying to make a speech in Dublin; Dublin, which as everyone knows, is the place where the most brilliant talkers in the world come from. Things have come to a pretty pass if you in this city which has listened in its time to Burke and Sheridan, to Wilde and Shaw, to Mahaffy and Gogarty, should have to put up with me. And, after all, we have heard some examples of your native eloquence at this very banquet. After listening to Mr. Vincent Kelly proposing the toast of the guests, a stranger will have no difficulty in believing the story that even beggars in Dublin streets cannot open their mouths without letting fall an epigram. Nevertheless, however inadequately I may be filling the bill, it gives me real pleasure to be on my feet because it gives me the opportunity of thanking the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland for the delightful hospitality we have all been

enjoying so very much this evening. It is no less a pleasure to thank you for so courteously inviting us to share in your centenary celebrations. As your President, Mr. Robinson, has already mentioned, our conference was to have been held this year in the province of the South-Eastern Society of Architects, but, of course, the moment we heard of your most cordial and delightful invitation to join in your celebrations, we realised that this was not an occasion that anybody would want to miss. Besides, some of my colleagues remembered the glories of the entertainment you provided for us when our Conference was held here some eight years ago.

Of course, I hasten to add that it was only by the courtesy of the South-Eastern Society, and especially of its President, Mr. John L. Denman, whom we are glad to have with us this evening, agreeing to wait for another occasion for our visit, that this happy arrangement became possible.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are not only to-night celebrating a centenary. This is a doubly auspicious occasion. Few centenarians can boast that their hundredth birthday is also their golden wedding day, but your Institute is in this unique position, for it is exactly fifty years ago since our two societies were joined together in what has proved to be not only a happy but a very fruitful union.

It is strange that so many of one's richer and most moving experiences seem to be reserved for one's riper years.

In the course of a life reasonably long, and, I hope, not altogether ill-spent, it has been my good fortune to see many famous and beautiful cities—Venice, Stockholm, Paris and Rome, and, being a Scot, I cannot omit our lovely Edinburgh—but until this visit I never had the pleasure of setting foot on this beautiful island of yours. We from over the sea hear a great deal of the natural beauties of your countryside and as I walked around Dublin to-day I realised that the architects of Ireland have given her a worthy capital, a capital fully comparable with any of the cities I have mentioned.

We strangers are often deplorably ignorant of matters concerning your country and as regards your architecture, many of us may even have been expecting to discern somewhat dimly, through a prevailing Celtic twilight, Tara's Halls, standing in ruins, inhabited only by an occasional Irish bull or Banshee.

Instead, we find a number of solid buildings glowing in a brilliant sunshine and inhabited with the absolutely charming people I see around me to-night.

Speaking not only for myself but, I am sure, for the President, Mr. Goodhart-Rendel, and all the members of the Royal Institute of British Architects, I can only assure you that we have enjoyed every moment of our visit so far, and that we are looking forward enormously to the other delights promised in your most attractive programme.

Mr. Chairman, it is with very great pleasure that I thank Mr. Vincent Kelly for proposing the toast of the

guests and you, ladies and gentlemen, for your warm response to it.

The RIGHT HONOURABLE the LORD MAYOR OF DUBLIN: Mr. President, Lord Archbishop, Your Excellencies, Mr. Minister, ladies and gentlemen,—Most of you heard me speak last night and do not want to hear me repeat the few words I then said, but again I do wish to join in the welcome that has been extended to you and to express the hope that the deliberations of your conference will bring many benefits to the members and to our countries.

I am very grateful to Mr. Kelly for his very kind words about me. I feel I am rather unworthy to reply for the guests when I see around me so many distinguished people and so many eloquent speakers who could do real justice to the occasion. I want to assure you that it is a great pleasure for us in Ireland to meet visitors and to welcome those who have come across the water, and to those of us in southern Ireland it is a great pleasure and a splendid opportunity that the Institute of Architects in Ireland have given us of meeting our friends from across the border up in Ulster. We are very happy to meet them and we believe that these exchanges of views and greetings will do much good for our country. We are grateful to Mr. Robinson for doing a splendid service for all Ireland by bringing your Institute over to this country. I am satisfied that as a result he has been responsible for the making of very many new friends for this country, because going

around and meeting some of our visitors to-day, I heard that it was the first time they were here, and that they were very happy to come. I believe that in that direction, Mr. Robinson and your Institute has done splendid work for the whole country. He gave them an opportunity of seeing for themselves our country, our surroundings and our people.

I will not detain you longer, except to say on behalf of the guests that we are deeply grateful for the splendid entertainment and for the excellent company we had the opportunity of meeting at your table.

Mr. Kelly did not let me off. On previous occasions I have criticised architects, and I have been reminded that when I spoke on the occasion of your last visit here about eight years ago I asked that the architects of Ireland should erect some monument to themselves. I am now satisfied that in that eight years some magnificent edifices have been erected in this city—handsome blocks of flats and thousands of cottages which are now housing people that were once in tenement dwellings which were unfit for habitation. To the architects of Ireland we are grateful for the help they have given us in that great work.

To the President of the Institute of British Architects I say again that it is a delight to meet him. It has been a charm to meet and to talk to him. When I first heard the name of Goodhart-Rendel, I wished I had a name like that, and I would not be afraid to fight any election. What a magnificent slogan it would be to see on the posters: "VOTE" and, then: GOODHART-RENDEL."



Newman's Church, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, by J. H. Pollen, built in 1856
(See the President's Banquet speech page 877)

From a photograph in a collection of photographs and drawings of Pollen's work in the R.I.B.A. library

THE INFORMAL RECEPTION

Delegates attending the conference and their friends were the guests of the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland at an informal reception held in the Mansion House on Wednesday evening. An official welcome to the delegates was extended on behalf of the Government of Eire by Mr. Sean T. O'Kelly, Tanaiste, and Minister for Local Government and Public Health, and on behalf of the city, by the Right Hon. Alfred Byrne, T.D., Lord Mayor.

Mr. O'KELLY spoke first in Gaelic and then proceeded in English.

A Uachtarain, agus a dhaoine uaisle, agus a chairde, is mian lion failte do chur romhaibh. Is mian lion failte is fiche do chur roimh gach duine annso, agus go mor mor roimh na teachtairi a thainig annso o Shasana. Ta sibh ag deanamh ana chuid maitheasa ar son an domhain. Ta se gha dheanamh agaibh agus ta se arbhur gcumas e dheanamh. Molaim an obair ata ga dheanamh agaibh in Eireann.

On behalf of the Government it gives me very great pleasure indeed to welcome you all to this, the capital city of our country, he proceeded. In particular I would extend in the name of the Government a warm, a particularly warm welcome to the visiting members of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Their brothers and colleagues in the architectural profession here have unquestionably in an intimate and private way already made them feel welcome and at home here, but I would like with all sincerity, in the name of the Government, to say to the members of the British Institute and their friends that they are thrice welcome to Dublin, the capital city of Ireland.

The President, as he used to be called—he is now the Taoiseach—Mr. De Valera, would have been very happy to be here to-night, but, unfortunately, pressing business kept him elsewhere, and he asked me to come here to deputise for him. I am happy to do so, because I have, in my Ministerial capacity and indeed in other capacities, had a great deal to do with architects and I have the greatest possible admiration for them as I know them as men, and I have the highest respect for their profession.

I think I could say with truth that the state of civilisation, the state of culture in any country can be judged by the respect in which architecture and the architects of that country are held. I think we hold them in very high esteem, regard and respect in Ireland. I know that in my dealings with them I have learned to have a very high regard for them—the President might tell you on other occasions that they have not got everything they want in this country from perhaps the Government or from the particular Minister who is addressing you, or maybe in other respects, but that

does not detract one iota from my statement that they are held in the highest regard, esteem and respect by the community as a whole, by the Government and by me, in my capacity as Minister for Local Government and Public Health in particular.

"Architects have left their mark." That is a trite thing to say but it is the truth. They have left their mark in every age on every country in the world's history. Your classical knowledge will tell you what the architects were responsible for in the earliest known days in classical history. Where would the renown, the justifiable renown of Greece be were it not for her architects as well as her sculptors. The architects left their mark, and though the period of greatness of that little country has gone by for many centuries the work done by architects for the civilisation of the community in that day, or at least the remains of their work, is still there to be a guide and a light to all the world as to what architects can do to help culture and to help to lift up men's minds to higher things and nobler ideals. What was done in Greece and Rome was done in other countries, in other civilisations and in other periods as well. I need not dwell on that aspect of the matter when speaking to architects. What they did in the earliest known days they have continued to do when countries became civilised and cultivated. Our country has not as much to show as many countries have to offer in the way of architectural prizes—if I could use the word—but we have some architectural beauties that we do present to you gentlemen for your investigation and examination, and perhaps for your admiration, the remains, because that is all we have of the wonderful structures erected more than a thousand years ago, some of them before the Norman invasion



Mr. Goodhart-Rendel and Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Kelly

and some afterwards. But there are remains of the early Celtic-Romanesque period when we did some things of which architects could be proud anywhere in any country. Of these we have the remains. They are to us a lesson, and an instruction and a light to our country and to our architects in particular, something to put before ourselves that we may live up to and strive to emulate in the years to come.

For a long period of our history we had no leisure to devote to architecture; in fact, anything in the way of architectural beauties that we had the efforts were more to knock them down and wipe them out than to build up. Thanks be to God that day is past. We are now in a period where we are building up, and if ever architects with skill and education and general culture were needed they are very necessary to us in this period of our national history. From what I know of the members of the architectural profession, some of whom I know intimately, and from what I know of the work they have done in the last twenty years or so there is no fear for the artistic and architectural future of this country in the progress we hope it will make in the years to come.

In modern times we are condemned to live in large cities, and there the architect finds the greatest sphere of usefulness and the greatest opportunities for showing his skill. Not alone does he have to consider the architectural beauties of modern buildings in our great cities and towns, but we have to think of and the architect has to think of the building he is instructed to design from another point of view as well as the artistic point of view. He has to consider it from a point of view that is regarded by some people as even more important or at least of equal importance—the point of view of public health.

The architect of modern times has much wider and more heavy responsibilities than the architects of old, but, whatever the responsibilities placed upon them, I know, speaking for the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland, I know that they are very competent to face them and to overcome the difficulties, whatever they are, of all the architectural problems that will be put to them to solve in the days of our national and architectural renaissance.

In my own name and in the name of the Government I repeat I am glad to be here. I am glad to say with all sincerity that the Government has always had the closest and most intimate co-operation from the members of the architectural profession of Ireland in their work, and that our architects were always, every man of them, imbued with one desire—naturally they hoped that the organisation they are members of, or should be members of, would look after their personal interests, but aside from that they were always imbued with the highest possible ideals, and have always striven to do honour to themselves and to the country to which they belong.

I am glad to be here to say a word of welcome in my own name and in the name of the Government to you all, and particularly to the visitors from over the seas who are thrice welcome in our midst.

The LORD MAYOR, Right Hon. ALFRED BYRNE, T.D., said:

Mr. President, Mr. Minister, ladies and gentlemen,—On behalf of the citizens I wish to join in the welcome extended to you by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health, and to say that I am very happy to be here and to be in office during the period in which you are celebrating your Centenary and to congratulate our chairman of this evening on being the lucky one chosen to be president during this year of your centenary celebrations. Your chairman is well known to every one of us in municipal life. You can see monuments everywhere to the men of the days gone by, but to-day you can see monuments growing up that will do honour and credit to your chairman and the architects of to-day. The present occupant of the chair has many monuments in this city and country to his credit.

It gives me the greatest possible pleasure to join in the welcome to the visitors from across the Channel. We have here distinguished architects from England, Scotland and Wales. All of them have done honour to their country and honour to their great profession. It gives me a great thrill to extend a very hearty welcome to your own President here on my left, Mr. Goodhart-Rendel, on this, his first visit to Dublin. I asked him why he had delayed his visit so long and he said he will compensate for it in future by coming to see us often. He will be always welcome. His name and his fame and his writings have arrived here before him and we have talked of them in the days gone by. We know of his splendid work in his own country.

I do not wish to delay you, but I would like to draw your attention for a moment to the architects' work of to-day. Some six or seven years ago, or it might be a little longer, at a meeting here in Dublin I asked the architects of the day to leave some monument that the poor people could share in, and I would suggest to our visitors, if they can afford the time, to go round and see what the architects and what Dublin city and its municipality have done for the people of the tenement quarters. We have, I believe, some of the most beautiful blocks of flats in Europe for our people in the tenement quarters. The Minister made some reference to the knocking down that took place in the days gone by. The only complaint I have with the men who did the knocking down some twenty years ago is that they knocked down in the wrong places. They left the slums and the tenement dwellings still standing and it is now costing our municipality one million pounds a year to clear them. This little city of ours, with a population of something under five hundred thousand,

is now spending one million pounds a year building homes for the working classes and those who are not working. I would like you to see what has been done. I wish to mention the fact that Dublin at the present moment is under a city managership. I see the city manager here, but he is very bashful, except when he is in his office. On him has fallen the task of seeing that the work to which I have referred is finished—the work of knocking down the slums and of building decent homes for our people. To the municipality has fallen the task of raising money to continue that good work. We are not without hope that the money will be forthcoming. I think a mistake has been made to-night, a little one. Do you wonder what is hidden by this curtain behind me? If it was drawn back just for a moment you would see a drum which has produced close on 50 million pounds within the last six years for our hospitals. I will not say that it has been the goose that laid the golden egg, but the architects of Ireland have shared in the productions of the little drum that is behind me here. It would do you good to see it. It is the Sweepstakes Drum. It has been one of our principal industries in this country. We earnestly hope that the fairy godmother will continue that good work because hospitalisation is only just beginning in this country. Thanks to the Sweepstakes we have now a number of magnificent new hospitals all over Ireland produced by the men who are in this room. In case the question should be running through your minds as to why we are building so many hospitals, may I say that for the past one hundred years this country was sadly neglected so far as the building of hospitals or the provision of proper accommodation for the sick was concerned. It is only just now that our people are beginning to get what they want.

Mr. President, I can assure you that it gives me the greatest possible pleasure to be here to welcome you to-night and to join in that welcome which the Minister has given.

Mr. J. J. ROBINSON, President of the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland, said :

I have the great honour to represent here my professional colleagues in Ireland and it is my privilege to welcome you also on their behalf. I am very proud that it should have fallen to my lot to be President on this occasion, and I must only ask you to forbear with me and give me your help.

I must begin by extending to all our confrères from beyond the seas our very hearty greetings and our welcome, and I extend to the members of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and to their distinguished President in particular, welcome and our special thanks for the help and co-operation which they have so freely and so understandingly given us.

We meet with high hopes that our deliberations,

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our interchange of thoughts, and friendships formed, will help the advancement of our beloved art.

I welcome also on your behalf the Vice-President of the Executive Council, who has always been particularly friendly to us, and particularly helpful whenever occasion demanded it. It is very nice to feel that we have a very good friend in a very high place.

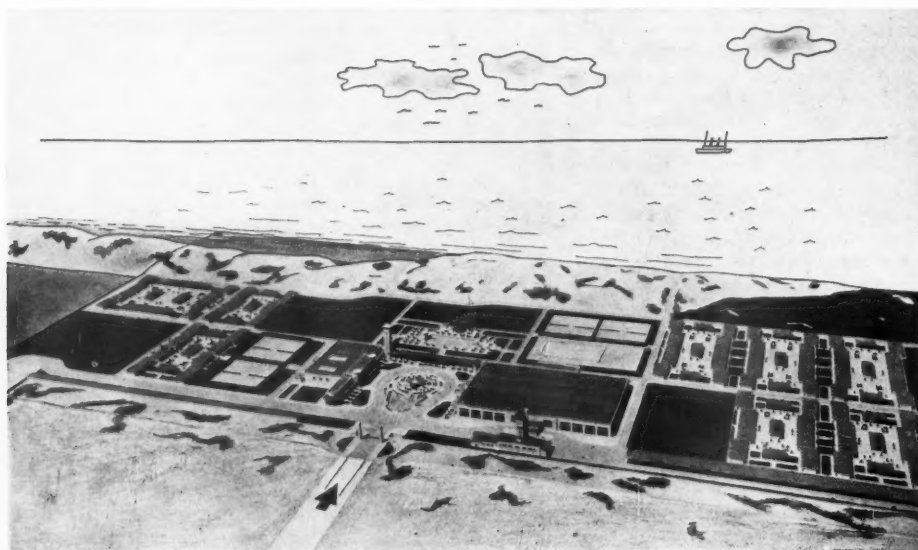
I also welcome our beloved Lord Mayor. He tells me that this is his last year of office, and I am sure you will be very sorry indeed to hear that. He also tells me that in the last thirty years he has fought twenty-one elections and that he only lost one.

I thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.

Mr. H. S. GOODHART-RENDEL, President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, said : Mr. Minister, my Lord Mayor, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen,—This is a very fortunate occasion for us visitors from the Royal Institute of British Architects. Many of us did not expect to have another congress in Dublin so soon, because we had not realised that your centenary would give us the excuse for putting you to the trouble and expense of us twice in ten or eleven years. I am particularly glad myself that just before the end of my presidency I have had the opportunity of coming here ; having always felt, as I now know, that a conference here would be of more help and more useful to our English members than a conference anywhere else. Another matter of good fortune is that we should receive the most charming and personal welcome that one could imagine from your Lord Mayor. It has been extraordinarily gratifying to everybody. That he manages to give the impression that he is glad to see each one of us must be due to the fact being a man of such universal goodwill he really is pleased to see each one of us.

Another thing that is very impressive to us from England are the remarks about the position of architects that have come from the very highest quarters. Coming from the Government this is, after all, a very impressive thing and a great honour, a thing that in many countries cannot be counted on at all. In a great many countries it is difficult for architects, except by making a terrible nuisance of themselves all the time, to get the Government to realise that they are there at all, and the fact even when realised seems often to be officially deplored. Here things are happier, and I must confess that we of the sister body, the slightly elder sister body, are probably finding our goodwill clouded with a little bit of envy at the moment.

We do feel that we are fortunate to be in Ireland at the moment, and we are grateful for your wonderful welcome, although a little overawed by it ; and we are going to try to behave properly and make you not sorry that you have asked us here.



A photograph of the model. On the left of the central entrance court is the Reception Hall building; on the right the Dining Hall block. These are linked by a covered way beyond which is the swimming pool. The chalets lie to the left and right of this central group of communal buildings.

HOLIDAY CAMP AT PRESTATYN NORTH WALES

Architect: William H. Hamlyn [F.]

Architect to the L.M.S. Railway

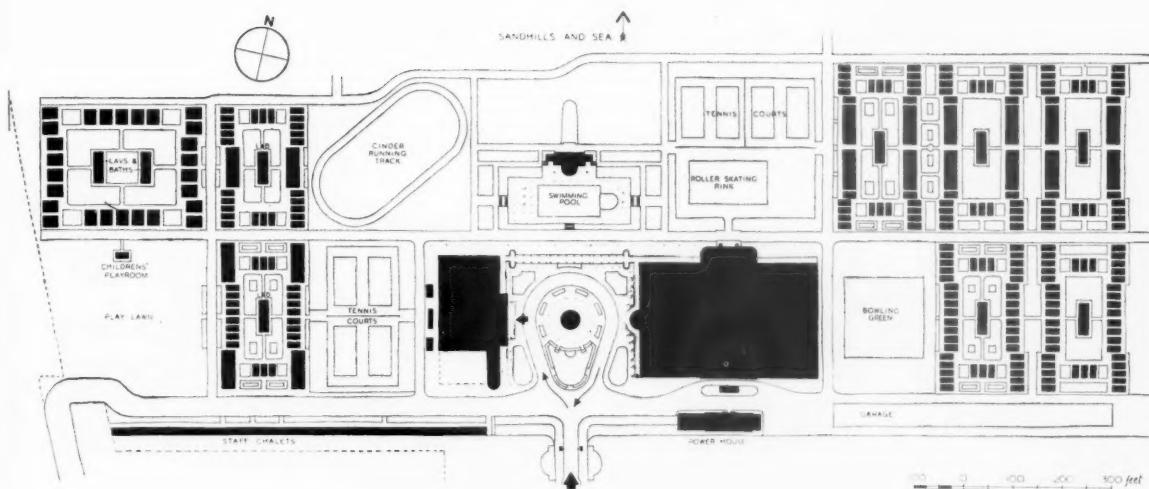
The site of the camp is situated on the north side of Victoria Road, slightly to the west of Prestatyn and about two miles from Rhyl, the ground being almost dead level and very suitable for the layout of a camp. The situation, whilst being within easy distance of the towns of Prestatyn, Rhyl, Colwyn Bay and Llandudno, and also in a centre where local beauty spots amongst Welsh mountain scenery are easy of access, is screened on the landward side by sand dunes and also on the seaward side by a second row of dunes. The site is approached by a main and a subsidiary road; the former meets the central cross axis of the site and the latter is at the west end.

The focal point of the plan is a large entrance court known as "The Sun Court," on either side of which are the two principal buildings, that on the west side containing the reception hall, the camp shopping centre, club lounge with buffet, a billiards room and gymnasium.

The building on the east side of the Sun Court comprises the dining room in which the whole of the visitors—1,750—can be seated at one time. There is a platform planned in a recess where the orchestra will play at mealtimes. Between the dining room and the ballroom is a lounge bar. On the west side is the ballroom and concert hall, the stage being equipped with suitable scenery and lighting effects for small variety performances and plays.

In the centre of the building are the kitchens, larders, stores, etc., capable of serving 2,000 persons at one time. Adjoining the kitchen and behind the ballroom is the staff mess and recreation room. Circulation is provided between both buildings by means of a covered way known as "The North-West Passage" and forming the northern side of the Sun Court.

On the central cross axis and situated northwards of the Sun Court is the swimming pool with its surrounding terrace raised 5 ft. above camp level. The terrace is paved with coloured concrete slabs laid in a geometrical pattern and fitted with sockets for



umbrellas. On the north side of the swimming pool is a building which comprises the filtration plant, lavatories for both sexes, a cocktail bar, a small suite of rooms for the Camp Controller, and on top of the building the Camp Controller's observation cabin. This building forms part of a whimsical vessel known as "The Prestatyn Clipper" and, by means of companion ways, is linked with the main deck raised a few feet above the lawn at the back of the building, where marine sports, such as shuffle-board, deck quoits, etc., may be played.

In the immediate vicinity of the main buildings and surrounding them are large areas laid out as lawns for croquet, clock golf, tennis courts, roller skating rink, bowling green, physical exercises, cinder running track and tennis volley practice pitches. To the east and west of these large areas are the chalets which form the sleeping accommodation for the camp.

The chalets are planned in courts. There are two kinds of court: the large court in the centre of which is a building comprising lavatory accommodation for both sexes, slipper bath, two showers, thermostatically controlled, and wash basins with running hot and cold water. These large courts are paved with cement paving for the considerable traffic to and from the bathrooms, etc.; turf would be worn off and become unsightly. The smaller courts where traffic is restricted to ordinary circulation are laid out with turf and flower beds.

The chalets comprise three kinds: the single chalet; a chalet with two beds (either two singles or one single and one double); and the chalet with two single beds and a cot for families, grouped around a large

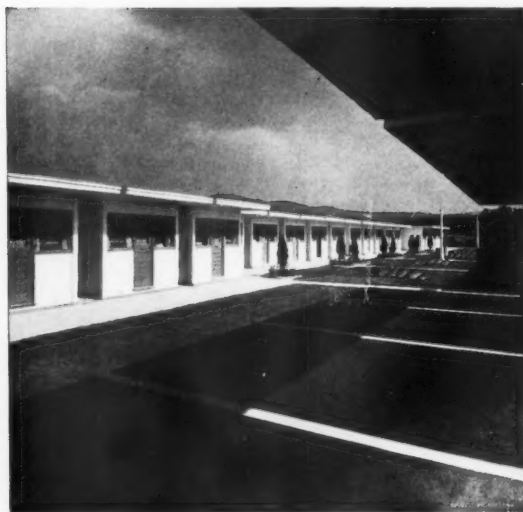
courtyard on the west extremity of the camp. Adjoining is the children's play lawn, provided with roundabouts, swings, etc., and a playroom for use during inclement weather.

The remaining buildings on the site include chalets for 200 staff, a first-aid centre fitted with a complete modern equipment for emergency cases and accidents, and including wheeled chairs and stretchers, oxygen cylinders, etc., and a nurse's sleeping quarters adjoining.

The power house building, in which are installed the boilers for supplying hot water to the camp and steam to the kitchen and ventilating system, also embraces a large linen store, baggage store and electrical sub-station. Adjoining this building is a laundry where lady visitors may wash and iron simple garments, and in which there is a drying room for the washing, and also for the visitors' clothing on wet days.

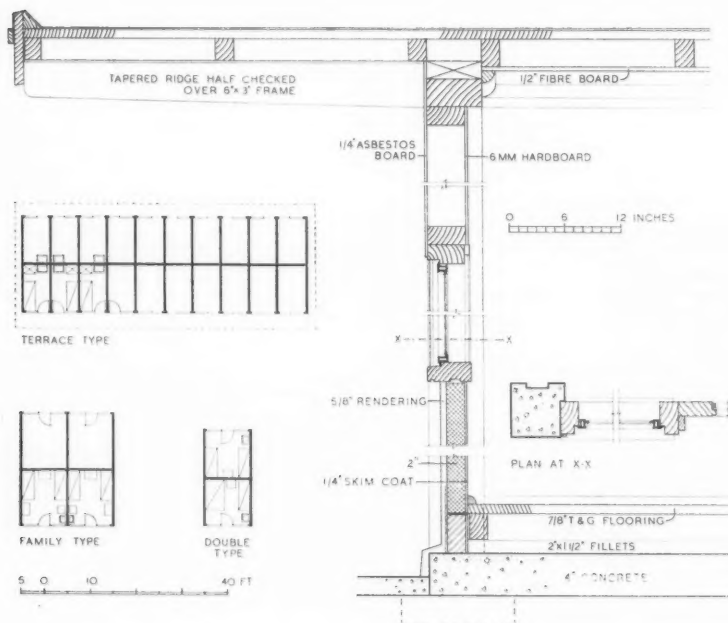
A covered car park accommodates about 150 cars. There are also two small kiosks on the site for the sale of sweets and tobacco, the one near the miniature golf course being also for the hire of clubs.

At the junction of the "North-West Passage" and the reception building is the observation tower. This feature enables visitors from a height of 60 ft. above the camp to obtain expansive views over land and sea. Four high-powered minoculars are fixed on swivel arms at four stations on the look-out platform, and the plate-glass of the windows is specially selected to provide angular vision, without distortion, to fifteen diameters magnification. Fixed at each corner in the floor of the tower are clear plate-glass panels $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick to enable the spectator to obtain an unobstructed view sheer down the side of the tower to the ground.



On the site of each chalet a 4 in. reinforced concrete raft was laid; concrete posts 6 in. by 6 in., having grooves $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. by 1 in., were erected at the angles of chalets and at intermediate points. Where the posts rest on the concrete the raft was thickened to form a footing, and a hole left to take a dowel at the foot of the post. At the top of each post is a dowel carried through a 6 in. by 3 in. timber plate to support the roof, the plate being braced at angles and intersections by a $\frac{1}{8}$ in. steel angle gusset screwed to the timber. The

wall slabs, bedded in cement mortar and carried into the grooves of the concrete posts, are composed of wood shavings, chemically petrified, bound together with cement and pressed in moulds to form slabs 7 ft. by 2 ft. The roof construction is of 3 in. by 2 in. rafters notched on to a central ridge to give the necessary fall without the use of fillets. The roof covering is of $\frac{3}{4}$ in. sawn boarding covered with two layers of bituminous sheeting.

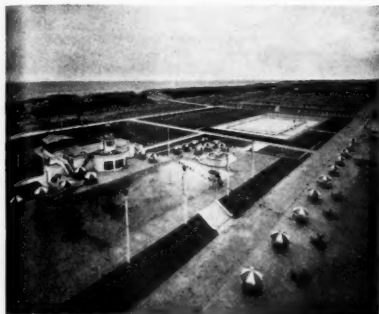


Above: Two views of the chalet courtyards. In the right-hand photograph the bath and lavatory building is in the centre.

Left: Details of the chalets.

Below: Interior of a terrace type single chalet.





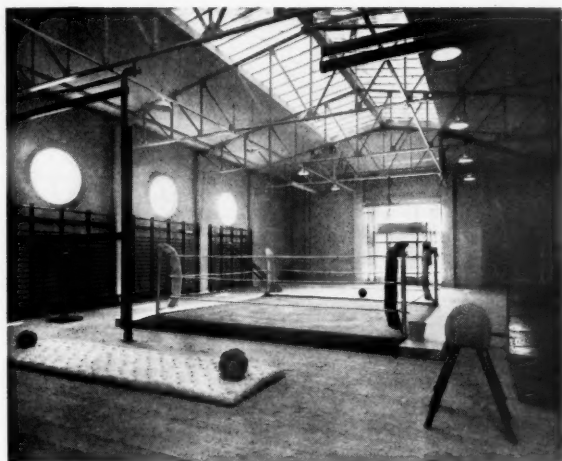
Swimming Pool



Reception Hall Block



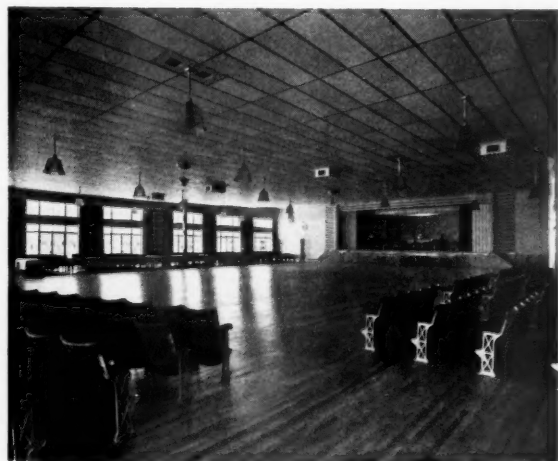
Sun Court



Gymnasium



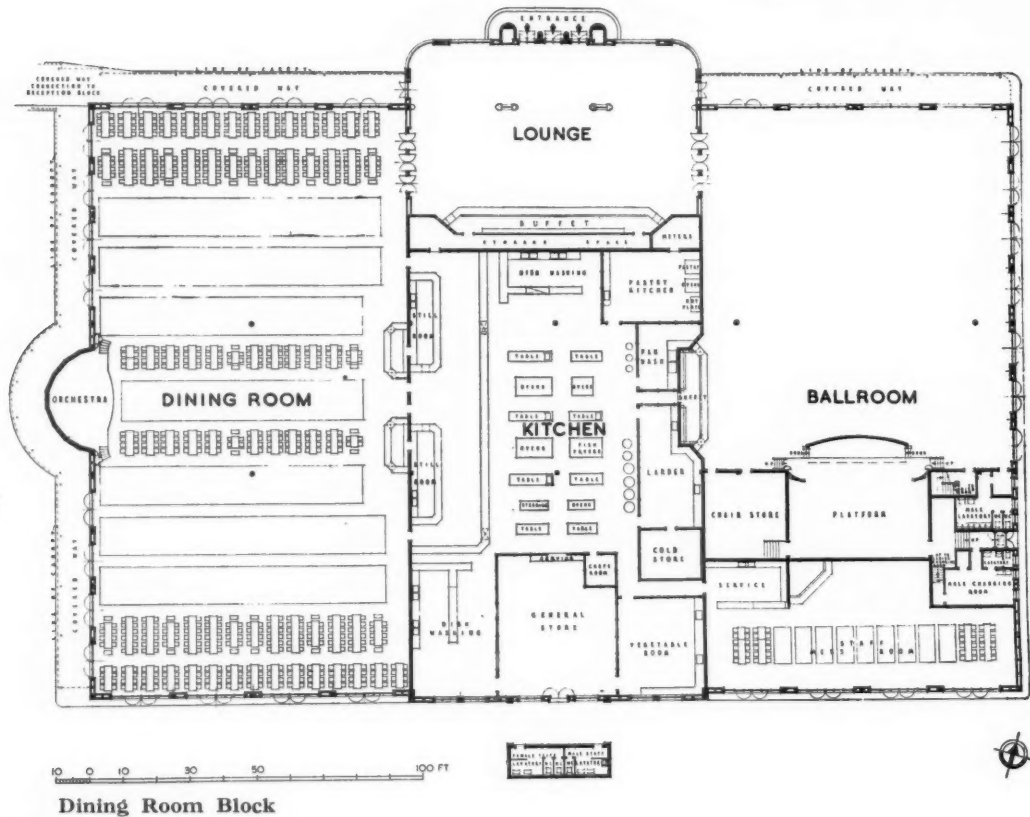
Lounge (Reception Hall Block)



Ballroom



Dining Room



MAIN BUILDINGS

The two main buildings are similar in construction. Steel stanchions carrying longitudinal steel beams and cross beams support the roof trusses. These have been designed with exceptionally long spans and a low rise. (The dining room 186 ft. long and 96 ft. wide has only two supporting columns placed on the longitudinal axis of the room.)

The steelwork was plumbed in stages as erected, followed by the painters and then by the bricklayers, the whole of the brickwork for these buildings was completed in five weeks, or approximately a fortnight after the steelworkers had finished their last plumbing. The roof was carried out in a similar sequence; carpenters fixed the purlins at one side of the job and were followed with the roof boarding working from one side of the building and continuing after the steel erectors.

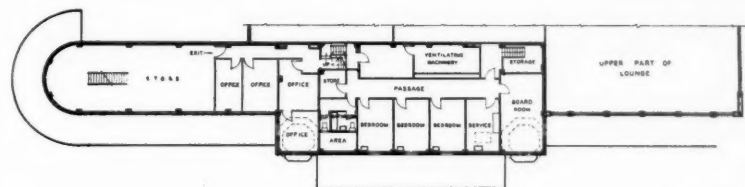
The ceilings are interesting, the special construction known as "And Wedge" being adopted. Asbestos ceiling boards, 6 ft. by 2 ft., rest on the flanges of $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $\frac{3}{4}$ in. pressed steel tees hung from the ceiling joists at 6 ft. centres. They are secured tightly by wood or

metal wedges driven through holes in the flange. The cross tees, with a small piece of flange cut away at the ends, are laid across the longitudinal tees and are held in position by the wedging of the boards. The resulting fire-resisting ceiling may either be decorated in one tint or used as a basis for a scheme of simple colour decoration.

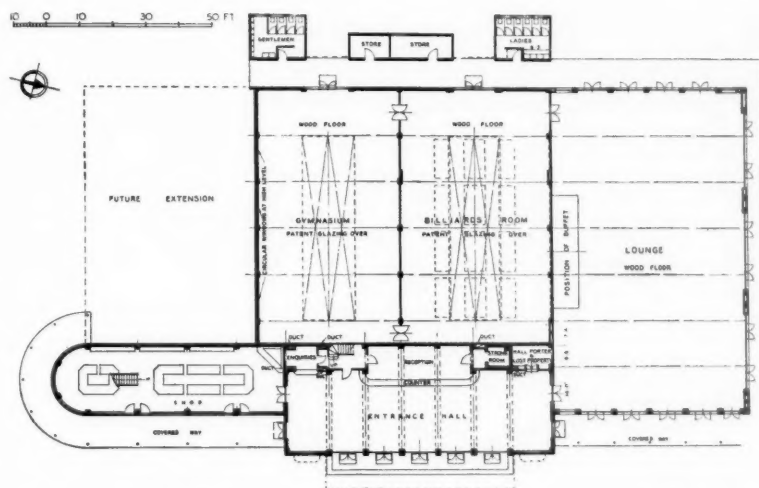
The walls of the main buildings are of two $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. skins formed of hard local bricks and built to cover each side of the stanchions without leaving projections.

GARDEN DESIGN

The design of the gardens has been kept as simple as possible in order to restrict the cost of maintenance. Trees of the Cupressus family, Allumi and Pottenii, have been used in order to provide a foil to the light range of colour schemes and the flower colours in the court yard. Bedding plants selected are those which will bloom for long periods, Geraniums and Dwarf Dahlias, probably throughout the season. The remainder of the garden scheme consists of turf mostly taken from the unused portion of the site. Some of the turf for special purposes was imported from Sussex.



First Floor



Reception Hall Block

Ground Floor



View of the central Sun Court and the Dining Room Block from the covered way (North West Passage) which links the Dining Room Block and the Reception Hall Block

CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS OF MATERIALS

GENERAL CONTRACTORS: McLaughlin & Harvey, Ltd., 24 Highbury Grove, London, N.5.

SUB-CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS: Steelwork, Redpath Brown & Co., Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester; Head, Wrightson & Co., Ltd., Teesdale Iron Works, Thornaby-on-Tees; electrical work, The General Electric Co., Ltd., London; hot and cold water, R. W. Steel & Co., Ltd., London; filtration plant, United Filters & Engineering, Ltd., London; softening plant, The Becco Engineering Co., Ltd., London; tennis courts, W. H. Gaze & Sons, Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames; metal windows, The Rustproof Metal Window Co., Ltd., Chester; swimming pool, Bradford & Co., Ltd., London; loud speakers, Tannoy Products, London; sanitary fittings, Musgraves (Liverpool), Ltd., Liverpool; Rowson, Drew & Clydesdale, London; kitchen equipment, Benham & Sons, Ltd., London, The Carron Co., Falkirk, J. Stott & Co. (Engineers), Ltd., London; fencing, The Fernden Fencing & Construction Co., Ltd., Guildford; ironmongery, Taylor, Pearce & Co., London, Metal Developments, Ltd., Birmingham, Lockerbie & Wilson (Birmingham), Ltd., Tipton; sewage and stormwater pumps, Burn Bros. (London), Ltd., London; signs, Dales, Brighton; metal turrets and pressed steel fascias, Lund-Signs, London;

maple flooring, R. W. Brooke & Co., Ltd., Liverpool; patent glazing, Williams & Williams, Ltd., Chester; patent ceiling construction and ceiling boards, C. F. Anderson & Son, Ltd., London; flush doors, R. Cattle, Ltd., London; folding and sliding doors, Esavian Doors, London; trees and plants, Dicksons Seeds, Ltd., Chester; roof coverings, The Ruberoid Co., Ltd., London, D. Anderson & Son, Ltd., Manchester; ventilation, The Lipscombe Air-Conditioning Co., Ltd., London; garage roofing and enclosure to lookout tower, Turners Asbestos Co., Manchester; enclosure to water tower, Wolverhampton Corrugated Iron Co., Wirral; boiler chimney steam boilers J. B. Hickey & Sons, Richmond; cloakroom fittings, James Sieber, London; gymnasium equipment and swimming pool equipment, H. Hunt & Son, Liverpool; "Wellinlith" material, Wellinlith, Ltd., Welwyn Garden City; fibrous plaster, W. A. Telling, Ltd., Brixton; gardens, Clibrans, Ltd., Altrincham; cables, Messrs. Pirelli, Southampton; wiring, Rashleigh Phipps, Ltd., London; electric light fittings, Major Equipment Co., London; neon signs, Ionite, Ltd., London; lamp standards, Concrete Utilities, Ware; pipes, Crane & Co., London; valves, J. Blakeborough & Sons, Ltd., Brighouse; calorifiers, Lumby, Ltd., Halifax; pipe lagging, Bell's Asbestos, Slough; taps, J. Webb & Co., Ltd., London; air-conditioning, Lipscombe Air Conditioning Co., Ltd., London.

INFORMAL GENERAL MEETING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

REPORT OF A MEETING HELD AT THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS ON MONDAY, 19 JUNE,
AT 8 P.M., THE PRESIDENT (MR. H. S. GOODHART-RENDEL [F.]) IN THE CHAIR

The informal meeting on Monday, 19 June, began with the announcement of the results of the Council elections.

After the announcement of the election results, the PRESIDENT proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the scrutineers, which was carried unanimously, with acclamation.

Mr. E. G. ALLEN [F.], in reply, on behalf of his colleagues and himself thanked the meeting for their vote. This year, he added, the election had involved the counting of some 28,000 votes, but the scrutineers had found it an interesting and sometimes an amusing task. One gentleman had written a letter which he enclosed with his voting paper, and in which he said that he was not sure whether the paper would be considered valid or not. That gentleman certainly sealed his own fate by his action, because, of course, the letter was not opened until the count was in progress.

He suggested that voting papers should always be blotted, because, if wet, crosses were folded together and as a result the paper became automatically invalid. That accounted for a very considerable number of the invalid papers which were returned. It would have been noticed, perhaps, that most of those invalid papers were in the Associate class. That was due to the fact that they were in the middle and the Licentiates or Fellows were folded opposite to them.

Mr. DANIEL ROTH [A.] said that he did not expect to open the ball, but as he had rather a long list of matters to deal with it was as well that he was speaking early.

Salaried Members' Committee

The R.I.B.A. had recently published an approved scale of salaries for assistants, and they had been informed that it was to take its place with the other scales in the *Kalendar*, and thus presumably it had some sort of approval; but it was not quite clear whether the scale of salaries was meant to imply that anyone entering the profession could look forward with some sort of certainty to receiving £450 a year, as the scale seemed to indicate, or whether the scale was a kind of instruction to architects that they must raise the present salaries. He asked what they were to deduce from this scale now that it had been approved; all salaried assistants would like to know whether there was some chance of their calculating their income for the next few years, a state of affairs which he did not believe existed to-day, but which seemed to be forecast by this movement by the Council.

Official Architects' Committee

He did not think that the members of the Institute had ever been clearly informed what that Committee was supposed to do. In its annual report the Committee made nothing very clear to those members who were interested in the subject.

About a year ago some articles had appeared in the *Architects' Journal* setting out the conditions of employment in several architects' offices, which, he thought, were a scandal to the profession. Had the Official Architects' Committee ever considered those articles. There was no mention of them in the annual report. If the Committee had not done so, he asked that it might go forward as at any rate a recommendation that the new Official Architects' Committee should consider the articles and report. He suggested that now Mr. Manning, the author of the articles, was on the Council, he would no doubt be interested to know that at least one member of the Institute did not wish his writings to be left in the wastepaper basket.

Public Relations

A point of major importance to the Institute, he suggested, was the question of public relations. The bulk of the housing carried out in this country was not in the hands of architects. He had not noticed that the Institute had taken any great steps to see that the position was rectified. The Minister of Health had recently broadcast to the nation complimenting them on the four million houses completed since the War, and a builder had been called to add his approval. We all felt, he said, that members of the Institute should have had a larger hand in the building of these four million houses, and we also knew that the actual result was no matter for compliment, but, rather, for shame; but he had not noticed that the R.I.B.A. had raised its head from the dust in which it was buried to cry out against this approval of a public nuisance.

The only efforts that he could recall during the past year to inform the man in the street, the layman who knew nothing about architecture, of what the architect really did stand for, had come from Anthony Bertram, who is not an architect, who published a book in the Penguin series, and from Miss Elizabeth Denby, who had put up a very fine house at the Ideal Home Exhibition, but who was not an architect either.

The Institute was losing its grip of the things that really mattered to architecture, and incidentally to architects, in a welter of rather more important business, such as A.R.P. and its own internal schisms and other urgent matters that occurred from time to time; the vast mass of the public was being ignored. The work that architects should be thriving on, and which, incidentally, would serve to improve the whole state of the country, was passing right past them, and they had nothing whatever to do with it.

Suggestions

Criticism, said Mr. Roth, would not go very far without some constructive suggestions. The Public Relations Committee could do some things immediately.

He felt that the first thing that was necessary was some sort of instruction of the public, so that they might learn to appreciate architecture and to understand where the architect came in. This should be done in co-operation with educational organisations which already existed, and by public lectures organised by the R.I.B.A. The Architectural Association had been giving such lectures with considerable success. This Institute should do similar work.

Education of this sort was forecast at the annual general meeting last year, but he noticed that it had died stillborn. This matter was most important and should not be allowed to die. He felt that not only should we try to explain architecture to the man in the street, but that we should try in particular to direct attention to teachers, particularly those in art schools, who were in a position to pass on something of what they knew. The teaching of architecture in art schools was very antiquated, and it was our duty to see that it was taught by people whose interest in architecture went beyond the drawing of Corinthian capitals.

The Institute should make some effort to make contact with estate agents and obtain their confidence. A man who knew no architects, and who wished to employ one to build a house, would very likely go to an estate agent, but we had no reason to believe that estate agents had sufficient information to give correct advice on this point. If sympathetic contact could be established between us and any central organisation which may exist for estate agents, we should have taken a step forward.

The register of architects was, he felt, a most cumbrous work and useless to anyone wishing to choose an architect. The least that we could do, particularly in the larger towns, was to arrange the register in district groupings, which would give the client a clue to the selection of some name from this rather big list. That was done in the case of the smaller rural districts, but it was not done for London; it would help the estate agent to pick his architect after we had got him to think in terms of architects.

Mr. Roth's third suggestion for the Public Relations Committee was a literary campaign. Not letters to *The Times*, the *News Chronicle* and so on, but serious articles—the campaign could be run in collaboration with the Literature Committee of the Institute—in papers such as *Homes and Gardens*, *The Ideal Home* and so on, where the ordinary man looked for his information on architecture. He did not read the R.I.B.A. JOURNAL or *The Times*, but he did buy *The Ideal Home*, and the articles there should be written by architects, and preferably by architects whose work the Institute was prepared to back.

Also, the Institute should be a regular exhibitor in the Ideal Home Exhibition. In the welter of rubbish the bright spot which the Institute might introduce would shine as brilliantly as Miss Denby's house. It should not be left to Miss Denby; it was the business of architects to see that the people who went to the Ideal Home Exhibition were shown the right side of the story.

Building Societies

Since the revision of the Building Societies Act had made building societies in some measure responsible for the buildings they financed, it seemed to be the moment for us to try to embrace them too, and to set up a rather more sympathetic union. Up to now the building societies had cleverly evaded the issue, but the issue has been brought to a head and we should have already come in and discussed the situation with them.

An Information Bureau for Laymen

An information bureau for the man in the street should be established in this building. People who looked for information about architects if they could not find it from estate agents would naturally look to us. He did not see that we had done much, even when they had come in at our front door, to set them on the right way. There should be a definite public bureau for inquiries of that nature, and it should be open to anyone to come in and not merely to make an inquiry at the counter and be passed on to someone who may be able to be of help. The information should be on tap.

Broadcasting

There was also the question of broadcasting, but that would appear to everyone as a more or less obvious course.

That, he said, completed his suggestions. Public relations was a sphere in which angels had feared to tread, and he could not help it if he rushed in.

His final point was the position which this Institute adopted in relation to the Royal Academy exhibition. A wireless forecast of the things to see at the Royal Academy exhibition recently dubbed the architecture room the Cinderella of the Royal Academy, but went on to add: "Nevertheless, there are one or two things worth looking at," or something to that effect; the Institute did not protest. The public were being misled by this architecture exhibition at the Royal Academy. The Institute should annually make its weight felt at the Academy in spite of repeated snubs. We had an excellent opportunity now.

The PRESIDENT said that on this his last appearance in the chair at a general meeting in this building, he was going to break his rule of the last two years, during which he had taken the view that it was not the place of the President to take any part in these discussions because it was more appropriate that he should get out of the way of other people who wanted to talk. He felt, however, such warm sympathy with much that Mr. Roth said—and he had no doubt from the murmurs in the audience that that sympathy was felt very generally—that he wanted to congratulate him on the constructive rather than the destructive nature of his criticisms, and to assure him that they were exactly the kind of thing that they wanted to hear in these discussions. They could sometimes tell him that what he considered they were too senile to do they might have already tried to do, and have found that they were not able to do, but nevertheless he considered that Mr. Roth made a most valuable speech, and he was going to call on the various chairmen of the committees to which he had referred, to speak better than he could on the particular matters that affected their committees. He was going also, however, to trespass on their patience a little himself, having noted down one or two points which did not appear to fall within the field of any particular committee. The remarks he was about to make from the chair were not to be regarded as privileged but merely as personal opinions.

The point was that of obtaining, he should say, somewhat more affectionate relations between themselves and the estate agents. He thought that a matter of extreme difficulty. The relations between estate agents and other people were naturally rather financial than affectionate. He thought that those architects who might have tried to establish some legitimate mutual co-operation, which they might hope for the good of architecture would some day be established, had for some reason—he did not presume to say what—

received something very like rebuffs; but it was certainly a matter which should receive consideration.

He did not quite understand Mr. Roth's reference to the register, because the only register which they had there was one which had been compiled with a view to national service, with a view that was to say of knowing all about the special qualities of members which might be useful in an emergency, and also all about former service and their varicose veins, and so on. It was important that the Institute should know that in case it was called upon suddenly to find a suitable person for any particular task. Whether the Institute could in any case conduct the business of patronage was, he thought, doubtful; he was not sure that he should think it entirely advisable that people should come there to learn whom to employ rather than that they should rely on the ordinary chances of life. That, however, was again a matter which was open to discussion.

The question of a literary campaign had always been very near his heart. The Institute did run a certain number of public lectures in the past, and he knew that the Architectural Association had run some more recently. They had had their lectures for children and they were doing what they could to interest the general public. Propaganda was always a little difficult when people expected it was interested, with six per cent. in the background, but it might be that there was a little more that could be done if they had people who would lecture or write in the popular way that was required. He had for a long time urged people who felt strongly that on the part of the B.B.C. such propaganda would be useful to write to the B.B.C. and ask why it did not give more about architecture; because as the B.B.C. apparently counted heads in the letters which it received through its journals, if enough people wrote to say "Why not more architecture?" it might result in more invitations than architects at present received. Whether they could be more active on that matter he did not know; most of them who could write at all had been doing their best according to their lights, but it was possible that a little more organisation in that direction might be valuable. He could assure Mr. Roth, however, that constant attention was being given to that matter, particularly on the part of the Public Relations Committee, and also on the part of the Literature Committee. They were glad, however, to have his suggestions.

He was not going to say anything about building societies, because that would be a little outside his province. There was, as they knew, a sort of hostility towards the architect as being a professional gentleman who interfered with everyone's pleasure in a great many of those departments, but possibly something more might be done in that direction. The idea of an information bureau was a very far-reaching suggestion and one which the Institute was not, he thought, quite ready for yet, but it might well be thought of. He should be glad to hear the opinions of others on that.

Then there was the subject of the Academy exhibition. He thought himself that the difficulty from an architect's point of view lay in whether he wanted to have his work submitted to a mixed jury of painters, architects and sculptors. One knew that very seldom had the architecture room of the Academy been representative of what really interested any architect. It had been a misfortune of the Academy that the room had also not been representative of what interested anybody else. At one time the evil had become so great that in the old room in Conduit Street the Architectural Exhibition Society (as he thought it was called) ran an inde-

pendent exhibition of architecture in competition with the Academy. That had succeeded fairly well for a few years, but architects eventually found that there was no money in it, and they could not even pay their expenses. It was quite possible that a great many architects who had never submitted their work to the Academy were wrong, because actually it might be considered a propaganda duty to give the widest choice possible to the Selection Committee, but that committee was not to a great many people a very encouraging jury to face. That was, he believed, the reason why this Institute, though a great many of its distinguished members were always well represented on the walls, had not usually seen eye to eye with the particular method of architectural illustration which was all that apparently was possible to the Royal Academy at the moment, although with a very distinguished architect as its President they might see some improvement in this matter.

The first committee to which Mr. Roth had referred was the Salaried Members' Committee, and he would ask Mr. Hanton to say a word about that.

Mr. P. K. HANTON, O.B.E. [F.], Chairman of the Salaried Members' Committee, replied on the question of the salary scale. Mr. Roth, he said, asked whether any young architect could hope to reach the sum of £450 a year. The idea of the Salaried Members' Committee would be that he might hope to reach very much more than that, because they hoped that every young architect who began at the bottom of the scale would have a field-marshal's baton in his haversack, and would one day rise to the £2,500 which the scale provided for a chief architect carrying out £1,000,000 of work per annum.

What the Salaried Members' Committee intended was to lay down a broad scale; it could be nothing else. They could only lay down a very broad scale, and all that they attempted to do was to divide the scale into two classes, one for men performing duties which roughly corresponded to those which a partner in a firm carried out, and the other for those who performed the duties which the assistants in a firm carried out. And they tried to give a rough guide as to what, taking it very broadly, they thought would be a fair scale not only for public offices but for private offices as well.

It was possible to make all kinds of definitions. They seriously attempted to make some definitions, but came to the conclusion that they could not do so, and that they would have to rely on broad definitions of drawing office staff—for example, the junior assistant, the senior assistant and the manager of the drawing office. Some offices would obviously not have a manager at all, as with a staff of two or three men a managing assistant would not be required.

They knew the imperfections of the scale, but had endeavoured to make it very broad indeed, and it had to be applied with common sense. They had made it applicable to London, but obviously conditions varied in different parts of the country.

Mr. W. T. CURTIS [F.], Chairman of the Official Architects' Committee, said that Mr. Roth had raised some very big questions for the Official Architects' Committee. He wanted to know what the functions of the Committee were, what they did, and how they behaved themselves. Their functions were, he assumed, to consider matters affecting official architects, and that they had done to the best of their ability. What they had done had been reported in the JOURNAL, and he did not think that he had anything further to add to that. He added, however, that one member of the Committee

was giving a paper at the next annual conference on "The Official Architect and His Work," which he trusted would be very interesting.

He did not think that their attention as a Committee had been drawn to the articles in the Press, but he was sure that if the Council wished the Committee to consider those articles, the Committee would be very pleased to do so.

The PRESIDENT then asked Mr. Roberts to reply for the Public Relations Committee.

Mr. A. LEONARD ROBERTS [F.], Chairman of the Public Relations Committee, thanked Mr. Roth for his kindness and for his courage. He suggested that possibly he had the advantage of Mr. Roth in the number of years that he had lived, and if his remarks appeared to be in the slightest degree dogmatic, he asked Mr. Roth to be good enough to accept the fact that it was a question of experience which governed the replies.

He said that he had had no notice of Mr. Roth's questions, but that he would do his best to reply in detail.

Nobody deplored more than the P.R.C. the fact that architects were not employed in the designing of housing schemes to the extent that we desired, but he wished to mention that if Mr. Roth had read the last Public Relations Committee annual report in the JOURNAL he would have seen the replies to a great many of the questions which he had raised. He impressed upon members the importance of reading that annual report before attending this meeting. The Public Relations Committee were interested in this matter of housing, and the Council had decided to move an amendment to the last Housing Bill to the effect that all money granted for loans on housing should be dependent on them being designed by an architect; but the Minister did not agree to that amendment. That statement showed, however, that the Public Relations Committee had been alive to this matter, and that they had made an effort in the interests of architects.

Circulars had been addressed to local authorities in which the Minister had referred to the desirability of employing architects, but local authorities had not up to the present chosen to appoint architects in every case to superintend this work. The reason, he thought, rested with the architects. Housing authorities desired to secure houses at the lowest possible capital expenditure, and until architects were in a position to show that, from a business point of view, they were able to produce houses at a lower cost than others, any efforts which we made fell very far short of securing the end which we all hoped for.

The P.R.C. were interested in ascertaining the percentage of general building work which was carried out by architects as compared with others, and at present they were engaged in putting together figures and statistics which would be published soon. The Committee had good reasons for believing that the percentage of work done by architects would be found larger than it was usually thought to be.*

Nearly all the points, he said, which Mr. Roth had mentioned had been considered by the Committee and had either been pursued and forwarded to the Council, or would be forwarded in due course, or had been turned down for reasons which were quite understandable.

As the retiring Chairman of the Committee he could not pledge the future Committee to anything, but he felt that a man like Mr. Roth would be invaluable to the Committee.

In education they had not been shortsighted. In the first place the Committee had prepared in draft a revision of the

book called *The Architect and his Work*, which was intended for the general public, and which would be of very great help to us, and, he hoped, in great demand.

Further, he had made a suggestion on the question of a general appreciation of architecture in the schools, as well as among the teachers and art teachers to whom Mr. Roth had referred. He thought that when Mr. Roth saw the documents he would be well satisfied.

In regard to many of the points which Mr. Roth had raised, Mr. Roberts suggested that he had really been under a misapprehension, and that, on referring to the actual details of the work of the Committee, he would be well satisfied with and possibly surprised at the work which the Committee had done.

The national lecture movement which the Committee had in hand was a great movement.

The work of the Exhibition Sub-Committee was another movement which dealt with the education of the general public. Possibly Mr. Roth did not fully realise what that sub-committee had done, to the satisfaction of our Hon. Treasurer, without the expenditure of any Institute money. If Mr. Roth could place £10,000 at the disposal of the Public Relations Committee he could assure him that they would be able to do a great deal more than they were doing, but nothing could be done without expenditure of money and time. The Committee had not grudged the expenditure of time on the work which they had done; much of the work of the last two years was now crystallising and coming forward to the Council in a form which he thought would be acceptable to the Institute at large; but it was far from being all that the Committee wanted to do.

With regard to the exhibitions organised by the Institute, Mr. Roberts said that he had just been handed a note which showed that at 36 centres in 1938 no fewer than 317,000 people saw the R.I.B.A. exhibitions.

On the question of a literary campaign, he thought that he had already said that this had not escaped their attention, and in fact literary contributions had continually been brought to their notice. It was again a question of expenditure.

With regard to the suggested information bureau, although our President had suggested that it might be difficult to deal with and expensive at present, he suggested that the various committees of the Institute were already dealing with the question of information. As a particular instance, he told how a local authority were going to build houses in scattered districts which they knew to be beautiful. Fortunately they knew one of the members of the local authority who was particularly anxious that the district should not be spoilt, and who came to them for advice and help; as a result, a member of this Institute was employed as architect.

In conclusion, he said that the work of the Public Relations Committee was special and very skilled work, unlike ordinary publicity work because it was publicity work for a profession. The publicity had to be carried out so as not to be offensive to the general public, who formed their clients. As Chairman of the Public Relations Committee for the past year, he wished to say that they had jealously guarded the trust placed in them, and he hoped that the members of this Institute would feel that they had carried out that trust without giving them away or involving them in difficulties which could have been avoided.

The PRESIDENT then asked Mr. Duncan to reply for the Art Committee.

* These figures are published on page 898 of this JOURNAL.

Mr. R. A. DUNCAN [A.], Chairman of the Art Committee, said he was glad to speak, because the Art Committee had always been the wastepaper basket of the Institute. When anything was difficult and nobody knew what to do with it, it was sent to the Art Committee, which had now set up a series of sub-committees to deal with the matters for which it was responsible. The first of the permanent sub-committees was the Exhibition Sub-committee, which had now been functioning for about eight years, and which for the last four years at least had been working most effectively, considering that it cost the Institute only £200 a year, or less than a farthing a head per person reached. Mention had already been made of the fact that there was an interlocking between these various committees, but that was inevitable and not undesirable.

Architects were the salt of the earth, and he thought that Mr. Roth felt that! Architects formed the most important profession, socially speaking, in any section of the community. He really believed this. Architects being the salt of the earth, the Institute was, or should be, the saltcellar, but unfortunately it was full of sand and other things which caused the salt to lack its right savour. One of the troubles from which the profession suffered was that of internal disputes. There were 47,000,000 people in the country and there were about 12,000 architects, of whom some 7,000 were in the Institute. There were to his certain knowledge at least six factions there which might cut each other's throats at any minute, at a time when there was plenty to do without adding to the difficulties.

He could see that Mr. Roth was likely to prove to be a very active member, and was not sure that he would not have a dispute with Mr. Roberts as to who was to have him on which committee!

Undoubtedly there was an immense amount of work to be done, as everybody knew, but there were two factors to be taken into account. One of them, which had already been mentioned, was that there was no money. Another was that there was not the necessary staff. He himself had several bright ideas which if they were put into force would work the unfortunate permanent staff of the Institute to death. The staff did as much as they could at present, and it would be quite impossible for them to do more. He had a great horror of starting something which could not be carried to its proper conclusion or which could not be put into full effect. Indeed, one of the defects of the Institute was that architects started hares running and then could not chase them. They did a great deal of that, and it wasted effort. The difficulties were lack of money and lack of machinery, and he admitted he did not know how to get over them.

He suggested that if, in addition to his constructive ideas, which were perfectly sound, Mr. Roth could suggest means of obtaining money and establishing machinery to do all the things that were thought desirable, they would be found comparatively simple to carry out.

With regard to the Literature Committee, he said that a hare had been started running there in conjunction with exhibitions which would have been extremely effective, but it had proved costly and very difficult to carry into practice. He had started the hare himself, but was not prepared to go on following it, and there was no one else who wanted to chase it.

Not only were there divisions within the Institute, but there were many difficult problems outside. The Institute was not the Government. Many people seemed to think that

it was, and asked it to do all sorts of things which would put up the backs of Government Departments and their official architects, to say the least of it. The Institute could not put into practice a great number of things; it could only ask politely and make suggestions, and that, of course, was too vague for most people; things did not seem to be getting done fast enough. Nevertheless, he thought that it was a good thing to ask for those things, and it was a good thing to present a case, even if it could not be supported extensively.

All sorts of things were being explored. For instance, to his certain knowledge, the column inches on architecture in the Press were greater than on almost any other subject proportional to its general public interest. That could easily be proved by available statistics. The Institute did not pay for advertising and did not even advertise exhibitions, but the amount of column inches which were obtained for exhibitions was wonderful. There were many other institutes which would be only too glad to find out from the R.I.B.A. how it did it, and how it obtained the publicity it got, and they even made inquiries to the R.I.B.A. about it.

He was entirely in agreement with Mr. Roth, however, in thinking that architects were not doing half that they should do, and that they were not really doing the country as much good as they should. That was not altogether in their hands, however, and he was not sure exactly how to make the necessary contacts with estate agents and other people. He himself did make contacts with them, but, as the President had suggested, unless their bread was buttered on both sides contact was likely to be lost. The Institute had attempted, through exhibitions, to establish certain contacts with the building trade, speculative house-builders, and so on, but it had not been easy, and after flogging that particular horse with three separate committees, the thing had to be done by the Exhibitions Sub-committee in the way which it thought best. That had not been received altogether with acclamation by some members of the Institute because sometimes the Committee did not run the kind of exhibition which these members thought it ought to run. But the Small House Exhibition was, in fact, enjoying a very good circulation.

Public education in another sphere—contact with the schools—had been dealt with by the Public Relations Committee, but it would probably fall also on the Art Committee and also on the Exhibition Sub-committee. It required an immense piece of machinery to carry it out. It was intended to establish a group of small exhibitions which should circulate in the schools and be interchanged; but the number of schools and the number of photographs which would be wanted were very large, and unless the Institute had the money to do it with, he did not see how it could be done, unless the Board of Education gave their support. The Board could not support them because they could give a grant only if the local authorities made the demand. The Board was not an independent body who could force the local authorities to make grants for the purpose of having exhibitions on architecture, even in the art schools. There were some 7,000 or 8,000 photographs at present in the collection, but that number would have to be multiplied by ten in order to put that proposal for exhibitions in the schools on a proper basis. It would be very unwise for the Institute to start it unless it could do it properly, because the result would be that it would not be asked again. That applied to very many things. Many members realised that many of those things were highly desirable and could be done if the sub-committee could see a way of carrying them out effectively on its limited

means, and with the limited number of people on whose assistance it could count. There were only about 2,000 architects in London, and on the Exhibition Sub-committee alone over 100 people had worked quite hard during the last twelve months. He knew that a big body of men must have been working on public relations. It entailed a great deal of entirely voluntary work. He did not know any body of men, with the possible exception of the medical profession, who did quite so much for nothing as architects.

Mr. E. STANLEY HALL (President-Elect) supplemented Mr. Duncan's remarks by giving one or two facts about the work which the Exhibition Sub-Committee had done. At the Council meeting that afternoon they had been told that the Exhibition Sub-Committee had had an exhibition on health and fitness which was being exhibited in four different parts of Scotland at the moment, and in August it was going to New Zealand, where it was to be shown at the centenary of the New Zealand Institute. In addition to that there had been an exhibition of British architecture at the World's Fair at New York, and there was one going to Stockholm. There was also a small exhibition at Cheltenham. He believed that there were two other exhibitions which were travelling, or which had been travelling during the last six months. He did not think that that was bad for one sub-committee of the Institute. The amount of publicity which those exhibitions obtained for the Institute was very considerable. The amount of time that the members of the Exhibition Sub-Committee put in was perfectly miraculous. That was what had been done by a sub-committee who complained that they had no money and that they could do a hundred times more if they had ten times as much money. The cost to the Institute was infinitesimal in view of the enormous amount of publicity which was obtained.

Mr. W. H. ANSELL, M.C. [F.], said that he had listened to Mr. Roth's speech with great interest; he had raised many points which were of vital importance to them. What did the Institute stand for? What was it trying to do? It was, he believed, endeavouring to raise the standard of design in building throughout this country, and it was also endeavouring to raise the income of architects practising in this country. The public believed that the second was our first interest, but we knew that, actually, the first was the thing which most of us had at heart. We had to establish confidence in the public that the raising of our incomes was not our primary concern. If we could make the public understand, first of all by the education of architects, that the architect would "deliver the goods" if they employed him, then he believed that, sooner or later, the public would respond.

As regards the building societies, the four million houses which had been put up in this country since the War were of very varying value. Those which had been done by official architects for municipalities and for our great cities were for the most part exceedingly good. Those which had been done by privately financed and developed estates had been in many ways far from good, and those were the ones which had been largely financed by the building societies. The building societies in this country had failed dismally to do anything whatever to keep up the standard of good design. They had a responsibility, if they could only have seen it, to which they had failed to respond. They could, as the people who paid the piper, have called the tune, but they did not call the tune to the extent to which it lay in their power. They did not even carry out, as they might, the control of construction.

He had been called in as an arbitrator the other day in connection with an estate which was being privately developed, and which had been financed by a building society. He decided to look at the houses, some of which were finished and some not. He saw some that were not finished in which the concrete bed had been laid on the site and was supposed to be 4 ins. thick, but he noticed a large number of worm-casts coming through the concrete. He felt some interest in the athletic worm which could penetrate 4 ins. of concrete, and asked for a pick. Even, he said, with his undeveloped physique he found that the pick went right through the concrete, which was a mere layer of mortar, or something of that kind, spread over the earth, and it was not more than a quarter of an inch thick, with holes at intervals through which the enterprising worms found their way.

The building societies, he said, could do very much more than they were doing, and he trusted that we would not allow them to take credit to themselves merely for the number of houses which they had helped to erect during this post-War period, but that we should continually press them—and, he also suggested, many university bodies who controlled large building estates, and who were not without blame—to exercise more control in design than they hitherto have done.

The Need for Unity

Mr. A. C. BUNCH [F.] said that if the Institute was to hold its own and to speak for architecture it was essential that we should not develop on the lines referred to by Mr. Duncan, by having among us sectional interests ready to cut one another's throats.

During the last few years the profession had developed upon different lines from those of the past. In the old days the private practitioner largely controlled the Institute, and the draughtsman assistant, who did much of the donkey work, was not in the picture. In these later days, however, particularly since the architectural schools had come into being and architectural education had become universal, almost every assistant was a qualified architect and a member. In these circumstances the Institute must, he said, represent others than the heads of private firms or official architects in charge of departments.

Some time ago some official architects—of whom he was one—came on the Council, and it had been a pleasure to find that in the Council chamber there was no lack of understanding and consideration of the problems of the work of the official. The Official Architects' Committee had been in existence two years. It had been said that little or nothing had been done. He did not know how much was expected, but the foundations of future happier relationships between private practitioners and official architects had probably been well and truly laid, and that was most important.

The problem of the representation of the qualified assistant remained. He trusted, if we had it, we should drop any idea of sectional fighting one with another. There was room for all, and there was no reason why we should not do what we could for ourselves and still watch the interests of each other.

He was glad that different sections of members were now represented on the Council. No interest, he said, should be over-represented, but none should be left out. With proper representation and good will we should be able to do much with the machinery at our disposal to maintain a strong and vigorous Institute.

Other professions had done much in looking after their interests in the face of opposition, and, he thought, in this

direction architects had been remiss. It was not that the public was not interested in architecture so much as that we had not protected the interests of architects. The surveyor and the engineer did much work that we were trained to do and should have been doing. He felt that this was partly due to our past negligence. With unity of purpose and general good will the coming year should, Mr. Bunch suggested, see much accomplished for the good of the Institute.

Mr. H. J. E. PYNE [L.] first told Mr. Roberts that he was young, and that he made no apology for it, and also, he added, that he was in architecture for money!

Mr. Bunch's remarks, he thought, were a breath of fresh air, and he was very pleased to have heard them.

He wondered whether Mr. Roth was satisfied with the replies which had been given to his questions and criticisms. He felt that these questions had not been fully answered. There was one thing which Mr. Roth had omitted to mention, but which was important, and that was the question of the recognition of the work of assistants in the offices of official architects. He felt that recognition should be given to the assistants in the offices of official architects. They worked hard (he was one), they designed, and often never saw their chiefs from one week's end to the other. He wished some consideration could be given by the Official Architects' Committee to a method of recognising the assistants' efforts. He had been in offices where the chief had become a Fellow in this Institute on his work. That, he thought, was bad. The assistants' names should be mentioned, together with that of the chief, in the designs which the assistants carried out.

Mr. A. LEONARD ROBERTS [F.], with reference to Mr. Pyne's point, said that in the special committee, of which Sir Raymond Unwin had been chairman, on the work of official architects, it was agreed that the recognition of the authorship of design should be given, and the Council automatically had approved that.

Since then many architects, and more particularly official architects, and certainly a large number of private architects, had given recognition to the authorship of designs. The lead had been given by the Office of Works, and it was followed by Mr. Curtis, of the Middlesex County Council. He himself had adopted the principle in Hampshire, and on his drawings recognised that official architecture was more or less the result of team work. The drawings were signed "County Architect's Department, The Castle, Winchester," and then were signed by himself as head of the department, and by his deputy as second-in-command, and then they had the words "Designed by," followed by the name in full and then the initials of the other draughtsmen who had been engaged in tracing and other work in connection with the details.

There were several advantages in that, inasmuch as the staffs of official architects had a changing personnel, and it might be that, in addition to wishing to give recognition and appreciation of the authorship of design, the head of the department wished to safeguard his responsibility for any mistakes made in the drawings. A draughtsman might let his chief down, but in this way it was possible to trace the author of any mistake which had been made, such as in the calculations of a column, or something which might be a vital structure in a building, and therefore one got the advantage both ways. Mr. Voysey was doing some work for his county, and he noticed on his drawings the initials of his chief draughtsman, who was responsible for the design.

One of the sub-committees of the Public Relations Committee had already prepared a report on this matter which was coming before the Executive Committee and the Council, and the day when the Council decided to recognise this principle as a point of professional etiquette would be one which he would welcome. He heartily supported the idea.

Mr. R. C. FISHER [A.] on the subject of the Institute's salary scale, said that the Salaried Members' Committee received numbers of applications from particular individuals asking it to look into their cases and see whether they were not due for some increase in salary, or whether their conditions of work were suitable or not. He wished to say that lately they had had one example of something which he thought was very important, because it might tend to speed up the application of the salary scale. They had had a collective application from the architects and assistants working in a specific office for the Committee to look into their conditions. It seemed to him that that was a valuable precedent, and one to be followed in any office where it was felt that conditions were not in harmony with the standards for which the Institute in general stood.

Mr. DANIEL ROTH [A.] hoped that it would not be felt that he was ranged against the people in authority in this Institute. He was very heartily on their side, and his comments were intended to be helpful rather than oppositional. While he sympathised with the people who had had to reply to him without knowing in advance what his questions would be, he realised from the start that, naturally, there were difficulties in carrying out any of his suggestions. He felt, however, that in particular the reply of Mr. Curtis was most unsatisfactory. When the chairman of a committee had to announce to this Institute that four articles published in four consecutive weeks in a professional journal were not brought to his notice, and therefore that his Committee took no steps with regard to them, there was cause to feel that the Institute was not doing all that it should. The members of the Institute, and particularly those in charge of its affairs, were expected to keep in touch with professional matters.

Mr. HOWARD M. ROBERTSON, M.C. (Vice-President), said that he had enjoyed himself so much that evening that he felt that he must speak! It had been a dead-horse flogging and whitewashing evening! The answers to Mr. Roth's points given by the chairmen of the various committees were so satisfactory that they must be specious! He would like Mr. Roth's points to be neatly sub-divided and handed to the committees in question, for he did not feel that they had, in fact, been answered adequately, and he did not think that Mr. Roth would feel that justice was done to his very interesting comments if they were dismissed by a discussion of this type. They ought to be handed in in writing and made the subject of serious examination by the committees concerned.

In the discussion with regard to architects generally and their work, he felt that there was one very weak point, an old one, so old that he ventured to raise it again to-night rather than at a meeting of the Council. It was the question of the signing of buildings by architects. He had been discussing the matter with Mr. Tatchell, and they both had felt that there was an enormous lack of publicity owing to the lack of knowledge on the part of members of the public as to who had designed any building in which they were interested. Mr. Tatchell had proposed that there should be issued by the Institute a kind of standard brick, and that on one end of

that brick there should be the badge of the Institute—on the left maybe—and to the right of it the name of the architect. He suggested that the plaque should be something purchasable by an architect, and should be a standard article issued by the Institute.

Time after time publicity with regard to new buildings had been given in the Press without mention of the architect. He felt that the architects would get better recognition if their signatures were on their buildings, and he saw no satisfactory way of having the signature on a building unless there was a standard form sponsored by the Institute. The public wanted to know who had designed buildings, but found difficulty in securing information, and a great deal of credit, and, incidentally, a great deal of business, was lost as a result of this situation.

Mr. C. H. PIKE [A.] suggested that in some of the offices, to which Mr. Roberts referred with apparent satisfaction, his answer when it was printed in the JOURNAL would be read with nothing but derision. If the Public Relations Committee enquired a little more deeply into this question they would find out that in some of these offices where the name of the responsible assistant appeared on the drawing, nevertheless, although he is under the chief architect, he is such an elevated personage that he had never seen the drawings at all.

The PRESIDENT said that the hour was late and they probably had not noticed the passing of time because they had had such an interesting evening. He felt that he must make just three or four final remarks from that chair, because there were a few points which had struck him very much.

First of all, with regard to the general reception of Mr. Roth's remarks, he thought that he had no reason to be dissatisfied with that. Mr. Howard Robertson's suggestion was also valuable, namely, that if Mr. Roth felt that owing to lack of notice and other things he had not had altogether satisfactory replies, there was no reason why the matter should be left there. He wanted to repeat what he had said about the appreciation which he felt of the constructive nature of Mr. Roth's suggestions, which were exactly the sort of thing which they wanted. He might have found, as had already been suggested, that those who appeared to be senile were not quite as senile as they looked, but it was very good for them to have a tonic occasionally, and if the old horse of the Institute was ridden by people like Mr. Roth, it would do a great deal of good. That reminded him of the old *Punch* drawing of the nervous rider, who said before taking the fence, "I hope it's all right the other side," upon which the horse immediately refused the fence, sending his rider over and saying "Go and see!" Mr. Roth might find himself in that position before long! He thought that they all had very warm sympathy with his suggestions, which he hoped that he and those who supported him would realise.

The question of signing a building was a difficult one. It was felt strongly that that should be done, but he should like to mention that it was difficult to find the real authorship of buildings sometimes even in private architects' offices. The difficulty was a widespread one. When trying to get material together for a history of nineteenth-century architecture, he originally had intended to put the name of the architect under each building illustrated, but he almost came to the conclusion that the name of the architect was so often not the name of the designer that it might be better to leave the works anonymous!

Finally, he should like to say how very grateful they were to Mr. Bunch for what he said. He felt that there was a real danger there, not of sectionalism in the sense of all the sections sending members to the Council, because that was the whole idea of the Institute, but of people not feeling quite free to think for themselves on every subject, as was usual, he believed, in societies representing other learned professions; because they might feel that if they did they might not be voicing the exact views of those who had put them in the position which they occupied. That, of course, was a very serious danger which architects all had to meet.

He thought that the present state of the Institute was extraordinarily good. At the moment the question which was perhaps the most thorny subject of all, of whether official architecture was desirable in certain conditions or not, was one which they could discuss very well with any other member of the Institute, whether an official architect or not, and know that he would consider it without prejudice as one brother architect with another. If it was really true, as he thought that it was, that they had that position at the present moment, it was obviously extremely important for all of them who had the welfare of the Institute at heart to see that it was never forgotten, and that they did keep that perfect independence of judgment on the part of each one of them as a human being, with special knowledge which could be brought to the common pot, and with the common object of the general welfare of architecture as the only object which architects should allow to mould their opinions. He thought that if the present atmosphere continued they could be sure of that, but they had to be careful that the other sort of business did not creep in involuntarily through no one's fault. They did not want to become like a parliament or some other beastly institution of that kind.

The President then asked for a final word from the incoming President.

Mr. E. STANLEY HALL (President-Elect), at the conclusion of the meeting, said that this was the last occasion on which Mr. Harry Goodhart-Rendel would occupy this particular Presidential chair, although he would remain as their President during the Dublin conference. He was sure that the members would not like to disperse without having accorded him a most hearty vote of thanks. He had started his two years of Presidency under the grave disability of a serious illness, followed by an operation, but that had in no way disheartened him or dulled the brilliant leadership which he had given during the last two years and the stimulating addresses and speeches he had made.

He knew that Mr. Goodhart-Rendel would not like him to continue this talk, but he was certain that the Institute owed him a very great deal for what he had done. His only regret was, as Mr. Howard Robertson had remarked in this room two years ago, that Mr. Goodhart-Rendel had not been the last president of the series, so that no one need have the misfortune to have to follow him. He then proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Goodhart-Rendel, which was carried unanimously, with prolonged applause.

The PRESIDENT, in thanking the meeting, said that it was very embarrassing to receive a bouquet of that kind. All that he could say was that he had done his best, and he congratulated them with all the warmth of his heart on his successor. He said that those were the last words he wished to say from the chair, and hoped always to keep the friendship of those whom he was no longer to serve as the chief servant of the Institute.

THE PROPORTION OF BUILDING WORK EXECUTED BY ARCHITECTS

The R.I.B.A. Public Relations Committee have observed that it is often said that architects are responsible for only a small proportion of the building work of this country. Quite fantastically small figures, such as five or ten per cent., are often quoted—even by architects themselves—though never is any authority for the quoted figure given. To settle this question once and for all, the Public Relations Committee have obtained statistical information from the Building Industries National Council and other sources, and have set out the true facts in the following Memorandum. It will be seen that, in general terms, of the nation's total annual expenditure on new building (about £255,000,000) the architect is responsible for 50 per cent. If, however, speculative and municipal housing are excluded, the architect is responsible for at least 85 per cent. of all other building work.

The Public Relations Committee have had under consideration the percentage of new constructional work executed to the designs and under the supervision of architects, in both private and salaried practice. It is necessary to state at the outset that there are no official or other figures available directly related to this purpose. By a process of deduction, supported by observation, however, it is nevertheless possible to frame a reasonably close estimate.

Fortunately, certain official total figures of new constructional work under appropriate headings are available and are such that they can be used as the basis of an estimate. For practical purposes the total value of new building work of all kinds can be accepted as £255,000,000 for a normal year, i.e., a year not unduly influenced—as 1939 is likely to be—by abnormal rearmament requirements.

This £255,000,000 can fairly accurately be divided as to £160,000,000 for residential purposes, i.e., houses and flats, and £95,000,000 as to non-residential, viz., all other types of building. The £160,000,000 is divided between houses and flats erected by Local Authorities, which amount to £55,000,000, and those erected by private enterprise, which amount to £105,000,000.

Of the £55,000,000 expended on housing by Local Authorities, it is estimated that architects either in private practice or employed in fully responsible salaried positions by Local Authorities are responsible for the design and supervision of £25,000,000, leaving £30,000,000 to be designed and supervised by the Local Authority's engineer or surveyor with or without trained architectural assistants (which form of assistance is believed to be much more extensive than was at one time the case).

Of the £105,000,000 erected by private enterprise it is estimated that not more than £10,000,000 to £15,000,000—and this mostly in the form of flats—is designed and completely supervised by architects (there is, however, indication that in respect of house design the more intelligent speculative builder is submitting

himself increasingly to the influence of the more highly qualified and responsible architect).

The £95,000,000 scheduled as non-residential building is divided into buildings erected for Central (Government) Departments, which amount to £30,000,000, and those erected for others, which amount to £65,000,000.

The whole of the £30,000,000 worth of new Government building may, for practical purposes, be accepted as entirely architecturally controlled, as no official building is erected other than as designed by an architect, although for traditional reasons the titular head of the Department may be "Engineer-in-Chief" or "Director of Works and Buildings." The remaining £65,000,000 comprise Factories, Workshops, Retail Shops, Warehouses, Offices, Schools, Churches, Public Buildings, Cinemas and other places of public entertainment, Garages, etc. (which may for general purposes be regarded at present as the main field of activity of the privately practising architect, though a certain proportion is executed by salaried architects). With the general exception of light steel-frame buildings and a certain number of small, simple brick-built shed type of structures, amounting to not more than 10 per cent. of the total, the work coming within this division may be regarded as wholly architecturally designed and supervised.

Reduced to a simple Table, the position is shown thus:—

	Total £ mlns.	Designed and supervised by Architects. £ mlns.
<i>Residential</i>		
Local Authorities ..	55	25
Private Enterprise ..	105	12½
<i>Non-Residential</i>		
Government ..	30	30
Other ..	65	57½
	255	125

It will be seen, therefore, that while in the case of Local Authority housing something under 50 per cent., and in the case of private enterprise less than 12 per cent. of the total comes under the control of the architect, in the case of non-residential work he is responsible for something in excess of 90 per cent.

These figures are interesting inasmuch as they lay finally to rest the oft-repeated and obviously ill-founded assertion that architects are responsible for only somewhere about 5 to 10 per cent. of the total value of British building. In fact, it can safely be said that in so far as new buildings, apart from small type housing, are concerned, the architect is unquestionably fully responsible for not less than 85 per cent., and it may be added that in this field he has very little leeway to make up.

With regard to housing of all kinds, however, the architect falls very far short of his optimum with only approximately 25 per cent. of the total and, in the provision by private enterprise of the small type of house, the architect reaches his lowest share of the total activity.

A summation of all these estimates, however, indicates most clearly and definitely that the architect is responsible for the design and supervision of nearly 50 per cent. of the total value of new building works erected in the United Kingdom and that the lowness of this percentage is due solely to the predominant proportion of the value of small type housing to the total value.

The more the position of the practising architect is studied in relation to the building activity of the country, the more obvious it becomes that the only field in which he is not predominant is housing. It is certain, however, that even in this direction considerable headway is being made. Before the Great War, when nearly all small house building was speculative, the share of the architect was restricted almost wholly to a few early garden suburb schemes, plus a small total of "bespoke" domestic work for private clients.

It is also clear that, while the volume of new private building is tending to decline, public building is increasing. In this connection a significant change has developed in the building expenditure of Local Authorities since the beginning of the century. At that time it may be assumed that the proportion of civil engineering work was about 80 per cent. of a comparatively much smaller total and architectural work about 20 per cent. The present-day figures compiled from the total of Local Loans Sanctions are most striking inasmuch as *73 per cent. of loans raised by Local Authorities is for works of a clearly architectural nature*, leaving only 27 per cent. for the remainder. These figures indicate clearly that the Local Authorities and the Government Departments together are fast becoming the chief users of architectural services.

It follows from the position exposed by this analysis that the chief technical officer of a Local Authority should most appropriately be an architect.

It is a recognised difficult matter to kill a rumour, however false, once it has become widespread and uncritically accepted. *There never has been during recent years the slightest measure of factual evidence supporting the statement so often made that architects were responsible for only 5 to 10 per cent. of British buildings.*

It is surely obvious that in the case of the wide field of construction for investment the value of the entire investment would not be jeopardised for lack of architectural services. In the case of public buildings regard for the amenities and efficiency of planning would lead to the same result. It was indeed always obvious that the only field in which the architect has played a minor part was in private enterprise housing, the great majority of which was purely speculative in character. It is significant that it is in precisely this field that the client has now been recognised as needing the protection of the Government against the speculator operating without architectural control. No more substantial case or eloquent argument for the universal use of architectural supervision could be put forward than the Government amendments to the Building Societies' Bill.



Powerscourt, Dublin

Accessions to the Library

1938-1939—XIV

Lists of all books, pamphlets, drawings and photographs presented to or purchased by the Library are published periodically. It is suggested that members who wish to be in close touch with the development of the Library should make a point of retaining these lists of reference.

Any notes which appear in the lists are published without prejudice to a further and more detailed criticism.

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693.55.04

* Reinforced concrete designers' handbook.

2nd ed. 9¾". xiv + 320 pp. Lond. : Concrete Pubns. Ltd. 1939. 15s. P.

NICHOLSON (PETER)

s.r. 694

(An Improved and enlarged edition of), N—'s New carpenter's guide. Etc.

[Late ed. ? 9th or later.] 40. Lond. 1828. (5s.) P.

C— new guide, New ed. 1808, and New ed. 1857, already in Library.

SANITARY SCIENCE, PROOFING

696.12 : 691.4

CLAY PRODUCTS TECHNICAL BUREAU OF GREAT BRITAIN

Bulletin No. S.G. [salt-glaze] 2 (sewerage and drainage)—

pams. 11". Lond. 1939—. R.

BUILDER, journal

699.895

Structural precautions against air attack. 4. (Supp., 26 May.) 12¾". 1939. R.

HOME OFFICE : AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS DEPARTMENT

* Structural defence. (Air raid precautions handbook No. 5.)

12¾". Lond. : H.M.S.O. 1939. 2s. R. (3).

699.895 : 016

D.S.I.R. : BUILDING RESEARCH STATION LIBRARY

Air raid protection. Abstracts of published papers. (Bibliog.

No. 44.)

A— r— p—. . . brief classification of the items &c.

[more likely to be of service to architects]. [Compiled by R.I.B.A.]

typescript. 13". [1939].

With typescript note attached.

Inserted in the D.S.I.R. : B.R.S.L. pubn.

SILICATE PAINT Co.

699.895 : 698.1

Camouflage and aerial defence.

7". 30 pp. + chart in pocket. Charlton, London. [1939.] R.

699.895 : 725.4

HOME OFFICE : AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS DEPARTMENT

Preliminary memorandum on the organisation of air raid precautions services in industrial, etc., undertakings and the training and equipment of personnel.

pam. 9¾". Lond. : H.M.S.O. 1939. 3d. R.

TOPOGRAPHY

SHEPHERD (W. R.)

91 (42.74 KU)

The History of Kirby Underdale.

Appendix to the Suppt.

9¾". Batley. 1932. 2s. 6d.

Second appendix.

9¾". Batley. 1939. 2s. 6d.

—Presented.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING, GARDENS

711.4—162 (41.5 D)

EIRE : LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DUBLIN) TRIBUNAL

Report.

9¾". 145 pp. + folding map in pocket. Dublin :

Stat. Office. 1938. 2s. 6d. R.

INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

712 (064)

Garden and landscape. An exhibition held . . . at Broadway,

Worcestershire and at the R— I— of B— A—, London [1939].

pam. 9¾". [Lond. 1939.] R.

HOFFMANN (HERBERT), editor

712.22 : 728

Garten und haus. Etc.

11½". 190 pp. Stuttgart : Hoffmann. [1939.] £1 1s. P.

DRAWINGS

LONDON : CITY

Royal London Friendly Society's building, Finsbury Square.

Ext. persp. John Belcher, archt.

Water-col. D. [190—.] (£1.) P.

Review of Periodicals

Attempt is made in this review to refer to the more important articles in all the journals received by the Library. None of the journals mentioned are in the Loan Library, but the Librarian will be pleased to give information about price and where each journal can be obtained. Members can have photostat copies of particular articles made at their own cost on application to the Librarian.

Normally the journals referred to in this review, all of which are in the R.I.B.A. reference library, cannot be borrowed. Members are, however, asked to encourage their local public libraries and their local society's library to take as many journals as they can afford; and they are asked, for the convenience of local members, to notify the R.I.B.A. of what journals are known to exist in public or private hands in their own neighbourhood.

SCHOOLS

ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL. 1939. 29 June. P. 1105.
Bedford Modern School, by O. P. Milne [F.]; a secondary school for 350 girls, with provision for extension.

ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. 1939. 30 June. P. 340.
The Harcourt Junior and Senior Schools at Folkestone, by E. Wamsley Lewis [A.].

ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. 1939. 30 June. P. 357.
Senior School at Rottweil, Stuttgart, by R. Kessler.

OFFICIAL ARCHITECT. 1939. June. P. 652.
Technical college at Blackpool, by J. C. Robinson [F.].

OFFICIAL ARCHITECT. 1939. June. P. 654.
Lighter construction of schools; an article by C. G. Stillman [F.], illustrating some of his partially pre-fabricated schools in light steel framework with timber infilling.

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD (NEW YORK). 1939. June. P. 45.

A group of two schools, three gymnasia, workshops, clinic and principal's residence at Sundby, Denmark, by K. Gottlob. One school is of a common Danish type—three storeys, planned around a central elliptical hall. The other is an open-air school for delicate children.

BYGGE KUNST (OSLO). 1939. No. 4. P. 61.
Kindergarten in a block of flats in Oslo.

ARCHITEKTURA (PRAGUE). 1939. No. 2. P. 36.
Large school of domestic science at Brno, by J. Polasek. Good kitchen classrooms.

SCHWEIZERISCHE BAUZEITUNG (ZURICH). 1939. P. 314.
Primary school at Senzach for about two hundred children, by Reinhart, Ninck and Landolt.

LABORATORIES

BYGGMÄSTAREN (STOCKHOLM). 1939. No. 17. P. 225.
Institute of experimental biology at Stockholm.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS

R.I.B.A. JOURNAL. 1939. 26 June. P. 805.
Lord Lee of Fareham's private picture gallery at Avening, Glos. Valuable discussion on picture galleries in general, and particularly on their lighting.

R.I.B.A. JOURNAL. 1939. 26 June. P. 821.
Diorama showing the social and architectural changes that have taken place in a typical English town during the last three hundred years. Exhibited in the British Pavilion, 1939 New York World's Fair; it was prepared on behalf of the Institute by R. Tubbs [A.] and H. T. Cadbury-Brown [A.].

ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL. 1939. 6 July. P. 8.
ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. 1939. 7 July. P. 7.
Photographs of the Swiss National Exhibition, Zurich.

ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. 1939. 30 June. P. 373.
Southampton Civic Centre Art Block, by E. Berry Webber [A.], comprising the school of art and art gallery.

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD (NEW YORK). 1939. June. P. 77.

Section on colour and artificial lighting at the Golden Gate Exposition, San Francisco. By A. F. Dickerson. Good diagrams showing disposition and colour of light sources.

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL VICTORIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS (MELBOURNE). 1939. April. P. 42.

Exhibition under the auspices of the Institute at the 1939 Home and Building Exhibition at Melbourne to explain the work of the architect and "to clear away some of the misunderstandings that attend the public conception of the New Architecture."

DAS WERK (ZURICH). 1939. Nos. 5 and 6.
Numbers on the Swiss National Exhibition at Zurich. Some excellent photographs.

CASABELLA (MILAN). No. 134. P. 6.
Large and well-designed exhibition of the qualities, uses, mining, etc., of Italian minerals. Magnificent series of photographs.

LIBRARY

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD. 1939. June. P. 262.
West Bridgford branch library, by E. W. Roberts [A.]. Shelf capacity 7,000, and storage room for 6,000 additional volumes.

RADIO

CASABELLA (MILAN). 1939. No. 133. P. 6.
A.V.R.O. radio station at Hilversum, by Duiker, Merkelbach and Karsten. Excellent plans and photographs.

CIVIC

ARCHITEKTURA (PRAGUE). 1939. No. 3. P. 61.
District Court of Justice and Revenue Offices in Pardubice, by L. Machon.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

L'ARCHITECTURE D'AUJOURD'HUI (PARIS). 1939. May.
Special number on public buildings. The palace of the League of Nations; competition for parliament buildings in Turkey, and for the House of the Lictor, Rome (the seat of the Party and a place for all big political demonstrations); buildings from Berlin and Munich; buildings from the U.S.S.R., including the palace of culture at the Stalin factory, Moscow; French embassies and legations; competition for the Albertine library at Brussels (heavily criticised); civic centre at Algiers; community centre for Blanc-Mesnil (André Lurçat); extremely interesting House of the People at Clichy by Beaudouin and Lods, providing, within one shell, offices for local syndicates, and flexible accommodation for an open market, a hall for 2,000, and a smaller cinema hall; covered market and festival hall at Nantes; social centre at Châteroux; employment exchange at Strasbourg; municipal centres at Gennevilliers and Rothesay; town halls at Wolverhampton, Norwich, and Halmstad; village hall at Coulsdon; health

centre at Finsbury; competition for city hall at Amsterdam; *post-office buildings* at Paris, Lyons, Boulogne-Billancourt, Courbevoie, Rambouillet, Clermont-Ferrand, St. Lazare, Utrecht, and Rome; telegraphs and telephones building at Brussels; *the work of the municipality of Bordeaux* since 1930, including university city, labour buildings, preventorium for delicate children, slaughter-houses and stock yards, day nursery, municipal stadium, and offices for the municipal gas and electric company.

RESTAURANT

CASABELLA (MILAN). 1939. No. 133. P. 26.
Pleasant open-air restaurant and bar at Turin, by Ettore Sot-Sas.

OFFICES

ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL. 1939. 29 June. P. 1124.
Imperial Airways House, Victoria, by A. Lakeman and W. H. Williams.

ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. 1939. 23 June. P. 312.
Daily Express building at Manchester, by Sir Owen Williams.

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION. 1939. June. P. 213.

Section on offices. Century House, Shaftesbury Avenue, by Anns & Haigh [F.]; Aluminium Plant & Vessel Co., Ltd., Wandsworth, by Adie, Button & Partners [A./F.]; various recent London offices; combined office, laboratory and restaurant for a cement works at Pistone, Tring, by Sir E. Owen Williams.

BYGGE KUNST (OSLO). 1939. No. 4. P. 66.
Bergens bank in Oslo, by C. and E. Michalsen.

KENTIKU SEKAI (TOKYO). 1939. No. 5. P. 15.
Offices and private theatre for a film company in Tokyo.

SHOPS

ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. 1939. 23 June. P. 319.
H.M.V. Showrooms, Oxford Street, by J. Emberton [F.].

ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. 1939. 7 July. P. 22.
The Bredenberg store in Stockholm, by E. G. Asplund.

INDUSTRIAL

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION. 1939. June. P. 225.

Section on factories, including Spiller's silos and flour mill, Newcastle, by Dr. Oscar Faber; three factories by Commercial Structures, Ltd.; Johnson & Phillips factory for assembly of switchgear at Charlton, by Sir John Brown and A. E. Henson; Johnson's Wax administration building, Racine, Wisconsin, by Frank Lloyd Wright. Also a brief review of the 1937 Factories Act.

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD (NEW YORK). 1939. June. P. 97.

Section on factory buildings; a survey of trends in layout and construction, with studies of four recently completed buildings—Simonds Saw & Steel Co., by the Austin Co.; assembly building for Dodge trucks, by Albert Kahn Inc. and Chrysler Corporation; plant for manufacture and assembly of light fittings and shades; and fibre board plant buildings, by Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation.

HOSPITALS, ETC.

ARCHITECTURE ILLUSTRATED. 1939. June. P. 161.
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, by Lanchester, Lodge and Davis [FF./A.]. Good photographs.

CASABELLA (MILAN). 1939. No. 134. P. 16.
Sanatorium with remedial baths at Formia, by G. Minoletti. For 260 boys and girls.

RECREATION BUILDINGS

ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. 1939. 7 July. P. 10.
Prestatyn Holiday Camp, North Wales, by W. H. Hamlyn [F.].

SCOTTISH ARCHITECT. 1939. June. P. 23.
Lanarkshire ice rink, by Gillespie, Kidd and Coia.

THEATRES—CINEMAS

SCOTTISH ARCHITECT. 1939. June.
Theatre design number. Two letters—"Audience to architect" and "Architect to audience."

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD (NEW YORK). 1939. June. P. 39.

Newsreel theatre on the ground floor of a large office building in Boston, by Marc Peter and H. Stubbins. Seating 250.

L'ARCHITECTURE (PARIS). 1939. June. P. 197.
Article on the stage equipment of the Paris Opera House. Good diagrams and photographs.

RELIGIOUS

LA CONSTRUCTION MODERNE (PARIS). 1939. 18 June. P. 380.

Crematorium at Vevey, Switzerland, by Schobinger, Tavernier and Gétaz.

HOUSES

R.I.B.A. JOURNAL. 1939. 26 June. P. 813.

The All-Europe House, designed by Elizabeth Denby for a density of twenty houses to the acre in mixed development with flats in central areas. Garden layout, planting, etc., by Christopher Tunnard. Complete list of furnishing costs and suppliers for the house exhibited at the 1939 Ideal Home Exhibition.

ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL. 1939. 29 June. P. 1121.
Reinforced concrete house at Hadleigh, Essex, by Wells Coates [F.].

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD (NEW YORK). 1939. June. P. 53.

Private house overlooking Lake Oswego, by V. E. Bailey. Interesting mezzanine planning on a sloping site.

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD (NEW YORK). 1939. June. P. 60.

A number of examples of bedrooms. An interesting bed, designed by T. Muller, is illustrated; it has an adjustable headrest which makes pillows unnecessary.

DOMUS (MILAN). 1939. Giugno. P. 33.
Section on small seaside houses. Charming presentation.

FLATS

ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. 1939. 30 June. P. 367.
Flats and Social Service Centre at Lambeth for the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, by Edward Armstrong [F.]. 64 flats ranging from one to four rooms.

ARKITEKTEN (COPENHAGEN). 1939. No. 4. P. 57.
Four large schemes of flats in Copenhagen. Storgaarden, by P. Baumann and K. Hansen; Skodsborg, by A. Wittmaack and V. Hvalsoe; Vestersøhus, by K. Fisker and C. F. Møller; Aadalshusene, by J. H. Klemmensen.

MATERIALS

PENCIL POINTS (NEW YORK). 1939. June. P. 395.
Article on plastics for architecture, by E. F. Lougee.

CONSTRUCTION

ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. 1939. 30 June. P. 385.
Article by T. Ritchie [A.] on the reinforced concrete construction of a large garage at Thatcham, explaining the reasons for the adoption of a three-hinged arch form of structure.

Obituaries

SIR GEORGE WASHINGTON BROWNE [F.] A NOTABLE SCOTS ARCHITECT

Sir George Washington Browne, P.P.R.S.A., Hon. R.A., LL.D., F.R.I.B.A., died on 15 June, aged 86 years.

It seems just the other day since he left Edinburgh to stay with his married daughter in Shropshire. We mourn his death, especially those of us who were in his office for years.

He was born in Glasgow and received his early training there. Later, he entered the office of Mr. J. Stevenson, of London. While there he gained, among other prizes, the Pugin Studentship. He was the first Scotsman to win this coveted prize and in 1887 published his "Pugin Studentship Sketches" which contains drawings and sketches of domestic and ecclesiastical buildings in England and Scotland made during or in preparation for the Pugin Studentship.

In 1879 he came to Edinburgh to be chief assistant to the late Sir Rowand Anderson during five of the busiest years of this eminent architect's practice. One of the principal buildings he was identified with in this office was the McEwan Hall of the University. The hand of Browne is easily discerned in many of the details of this fine building.

Shortly after he left this office he won the competition for the Edinburgh Public Library. The Library and Messrs. Redfern's premises in Princes Street, Edinburgh, since demolished for Messrs. Forsyth's premises, are typical of his work. I remember Sir John Burnett told me at the time that he deeply regretted having to demolish this gem of architecture for Messrs. Forsyth's new premises. Among his other works are the Sick Children's Hospital, Edinburgh, work at the Royal Infirmary, a number of British Linen Company Banks in various towns of Scotland, and the Y.M.C.A. Building in Edinburgh. His success in the public library competition established him in a good general practice embracing country houses, schools, banks, insurance offices, etc., throughout Scotland. He was in partnership for some years with the late Mr. J. M. Dick Peddie, whose practice at that time embraced a number of important buildings.

He was one of the architects who won a foremost place in the competition for the L.C.C. buildings. For the important project to build a new bridge over the Thames opposite St. Paul's his design was placed first. The project was delayed on account of the War and eventually given up.

From 1884 to 1886, he was President of the Edinburgh Architectural Association. He was persuaded many years later to give his reminiscences of the profession to the Association. I remember he stated that he had no message to give us, but he was reminded that his

work was in itself a message and an inspiration to all of us.

In 1924, he was elected President of the Royal Scottish Academy. He was the first architect to fill the chair and worthily maintained the tradition of a distinguished succession of painter Presidents.

He had a courtly manner and distinctive personality and brought a notable personal dignity to the office of President. He had ten years of office when he resigned because of ill-health. His knighthood in 1926 gave great pleasure to the profession.

He was a traditionalist in his work and had little appreciation of the latest phases of architectural style. He was critical of "the originality which has no origin." He was a keen student of Gothic architecture, though later his interest was more in French Renaissance. He always drew the $\frac{1}{2}$ in. and full size details of a building with his own hand, and often when he was out of his room a visit was made to his drawing board to admire his work. He strongly advised his pupils to do measured work and always advocated the benefit of studying some outstanding building in its entirety rather than some isolated feature of the building by itself.

His book of Pugin Studentship sketches shows him a master of the pencil. I think he originated a technique of pencil sketching which was developed later with great success by the late Mr. John Begg.

Like Norman Shaw he was not keen on either writing or speaking but was a most interesting talker when we met him in the Scottish Arts Club. He was always grateful if a member gave him a game of billiards.

Sir Rowand Anderson, Sir George Washington Browne, Sir John Burnett, Mr. Hippolyte J. Blanc and Mr. John Kinross—these were big men to all of us in the days of our architectural adolescence. Sir Rowand was possibly the outstanding figure.

Sir George was married twice and is survived by a married daughter. His three sons were either killed in the War or died from the effects of gas poisoning.

JOHN WILSON

A. R. L. WRIGHT [F.]

We record with great regret the death on 5 April of Mr. Alfred Robert Linus Wright, one of the most outstanding figures of the architectural world in Western Australia.

He was born in England in June 1861 and died on 5 April this year. He was educated in Holland and at the Bristol Grammar School, and served his articles with Mr. Charles Smith, of Reading, and later with Mr. George Elkington, London. In 1885 he left England for reasons of health and after a period in Brisbane settled in 1894 in Perth, where he remained until his death.

For four years he was assistant chief architect in the P.W.D., Perth, and did work for the Royal Mint, Observatory, Museum and Art Gallery. Later he worked in the engineering branch

of the P.W.D., and designed numerous lighthouses on the Western Australian coast.

Mr. Wright's greatest interests were in architectural education, to which he gave a great deal of his time, and in statutory registration of architects. It was mainly owing to Mr. Wright's efforts that statutory registration was brought about in Western Australia in 1921. Two years ago he was the guest of honour at a dinner for him held at Perth by his fellow architects, when he was presented with a silver rose bowl.

Mr. Wright was an ex-President of the Town Planning Department of Western Australia; chairman of the Local Committees of the Australian Commonwealth Engineering Standards Association; chairman since its inception in 1921 of the Architects Board of W.A.; chairman of the local panel of examiners, and past-President of the Royal Institute of Architects of Western Australia.

JOHN STEVENS LEE [A.]

His numerous friends will regret to hear of the death on 22 March of John Stevens Lee, a superintending architect to the Ministry of Agriculture from the end of the war until 1938, when he retired owing to ill-health. Lee was born in January 1876, and was a nephew of Thomas Stirling Lee, the well-known sculptor. His early architectural training was at the R.A. Schools, where he won a travelling studentship and subsequently the R.I.B.A. Tite Prize, upon which he visited Italy, bringing back many charming sketches from Bergamo, Verona, Torcello and Venice.

He worked in the offices of W. D. Caröe and Sir Edwin Lutyens, and was a keen member of the Artists' Rifles, which

led him to join the C.I.V.'s, with whom he went through the South African War. On his return he started private practice, and between that time and the start of the European War had built some charming houses near Bishop's Stortford, at Aldeburgh, in the Lake District and elsewhere.

As with so many other architects, the War diverted his activities. During hostilities he served in the Ordnance Department at Woolwich; afterwards he became one of the strong team of architects employed under the late Sir Lawrence Weaver in land settlement work at the Ministry of Agriculture; and from 1934 he remained as the sole original member of that band. During all that time the Ministry's architects were classed as "temporary," a position which (if it had no other advantages) permitted modest indulgence in private practice, and Lee during this period added two very pleasant houses to his list of works—one at Seaford and the second and last on Aldeburgh Golf Course.

Lee was a keen churchman, for many years Vicar's Warden at St. Michaels, Southfields. His was a lovable personality, full of the joy of life—and not insensible to its attendant cares. His work shows him to have been a very able architect, and it is a matter for regret that the War break in his practice should so soon have diverted his efforts in a direction where less outlet for his abilities existed. He leaves a widow, two sons and one daughter.

E. G. & R. M.

MR. BRADSHAW GASS [F.] & MR. J. C. ROGERS [A.]

We regret to record the deaths of Mr. Bradshaw Gass [F.] and Mr. J. C. Rogers [A.]. Obituaries will appear in the next number of the JOURNAL.

Notes

PHOTOGRAPHS OF EGYPT AND GREECE

A fine collection of some forty photographs taken in Egypt and Greece by Mr. G. F. Kidder Smith, B.A., M.F.A., has been lent by him to the Architectural Association and will be on exhibition at 34, 35, 36 Bedford Square, W.C.1, from Monday, 17 July, until Friday, 4 August, between the hours of 10 till 6.

Mr. Kidder Smith graduated from Princeton University in 1935. After a year in the Beaux Arts, he returned to the Princeton Graduate School of Architecture, obtaining his M.F.A. in February, 1938. In the spring of that year he went with the Princeton Expedition to Antioch, as architect and photographer. The Egyptian photographs were taken on his way out and those in Greece on his way back from Syria. He is now in Sweden engaged upon research as a Fellow of the American-Scandinavian Foundation.

The prints are enlargements from quarter plate negatives taken with a Zeiss Juwel camera fitted with a Zeiss Tessar 15 cm. lens.

R.I.B.A. V. A.A. CRICKET MATCH

The annual Cricket Match between the R.I.B.A. and the Architectural Association will be held on the A.A. Ground, Furzehill Road, Borehamwood, on Thursday, 20 July, beginning at 11.30 a.m. All members of the R.I.B.A. and their friends are cordially invited to attend. Lunches, refreshments and drinks can be obtained on the ground.

The ground can be reached by train from St. Pancras

to Elstree, Green Line from Victoria, or by Underground to Edgware and thence by bus to Borehamwood.

The match will be followed by the Annual Dinner of the A.A. Cricket Club at 34-36 Bedford Square, W.C.1, at 8 p.m., when the Club will entertain the R.I.B.A. team. Any members of the R.I.B.A. wishing to attend the dinner (price 4s. including drinks) will be welcome, and are asked to send in their names beforehand to the Hon. Secretary of the A.A.C.C., R. D. Gordon, at the A.A. Telephone: Museum 4957.

TEAMS

R.I.B.A.: D. S. Taylor (captain), P. A. Robson, Hon. Humphrey Pakington, E. J. T. Lutyens, A. S. Knott, J. T. Alliston, B. S. Smyth, A. G. Savill, F. Napolitano, N. Perry, R. R. Fairbairn, A. C. Tripe.

A.A.: C. A. R. Norton (captain), A. J. Murray, R. D. Gordon, A. W. Dickie, D. Watson, J. S. Hirst, A. R. da Silva, P. I. D. Tetley, R. W. Holmes, H. H. James, T. A. Bird, G. H. Gould.

THE EXHIBITION OF SIR GUY DAWBER'S DRAWINGS

We have been asked to announce that the showcases used in the exhibition of the drawings by Sir Guy Dawber were lent by Messrs. E. Pollard & Co.

CORRECTION

Our attention has been drawn to the fact that the four concrete houses alluded to on p. 771 of the JOURNAL of 12 June, in Mr. Hitch's article on the Rise and Decline of the Terrace House in England, as having been designed by Tecton, were in fact by Mr. Lubetkin and Mr. A. V. Pilichowski [A.]. We apologise for allowing this error to be in print.

ARCHITECTS AND PREPARATION FOR WAR

APPOINTMENT VACANT

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL

Chief Instructor required in a temporary capacity in Architect's Department to supervise and co-ordinate the training in five schools of parties for A.R.P. rescue, shoring and demolition work. Knowledge of structural engineering, mechanics of building, unexploded bombs, and oxy-acetylene cutting required. Remuneration according to qualifications and experience, but not exceeding 10 guineas a week.

Apply to Architect, County Hall, Westminster Bridge, S.E.1 (stamped addressed envelope necessary) for form. Canvassing disqualifies.

THE CENTRAL REGISTER

Architects who are (a) members of the R.I.B.A., (b) members of an R.I.B.A. Allied Society, or (c) Registered Architects not attached to any body, who have filled up cards of enrolment in the Central Register, were asked to state if they were already members of Territorial, Reserve, or Auxiliary Forces, or under any other obligation for National Service.

It is desired to keep the information on the register cards up to date, and architects who, since enrolling, have undertaken or in future undertake obligations involving full-time service in time of war with H.M. Forces (Regular, Territorial, Reserve or Auxiliary) or with the Civil Defence Services, are therefore requested to inform the Secretary of the R.I.B.A. Emergency Panel, 66 Portland Place, London, W.1, who will pass on the information to the Ministry of Labour.

It would be appreciated if architects would take similar action in notifying the Secretary of the R.I.B.A. Emergency Panel of:

- (a) Change of home address;
- (b) Change of employer;
- (c) Acquisition of additional professional qualification, or any other matters likely to affect the usefulness of the Register.

ARCHITECTS AND THE GOVERNMENT'S EVACUATION SCHEME

The R.I.B.A. Emergency Panel have been informed by the Education Officer of the London County Council that he would welcome assistance in connection with the evacuation of parties of children under five years of age, who would be accompanied by their mothers.

Volunteers who are ready to assist in conducting such parties are urgently required. Offers from volunteers who can provide and drive a car are also needed in connection with parties of other types.

The R.I.B.A. Emergency Panel feel that many architects who are prevented from undertaking any other form of National Service would be glad to volunteer for this service, which would extend over one or two days.

Copies of the necessary enrolment card, together with an explanatory leaflet, can be obtained on application to the Secretary of the R.I.B.A. Emergency Panel.

ARCHITECTS AND THE TERRITORIAL ARMY

The R.I.B.A. Emergency Panel have had under consideration the position of architects who desire to join the Territorial Army. The Panel are advised that the most appropriate Units are Divisional or Corps Troops Engineers or the Royal Artillery. It has also been explained that there are other Units in which architects' qualifications would be of value.

Architects not resident in the London area are advised to approach the secretary of the Local Territorial Army Association, whose address may be found in the local Telephone Directory under the heading "Territorial Army."

Architects resident in or near London are advised to apply to one of the following Territorial Units, but it is understood that many of these Units are already up to strength:—

- The London Divisional Engineers,
Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3.
- The London Corps Troops Engineers,
10 Victoria Park Square, Bethnal Green, E.
7 Linden Grove, Nunhead, S.E.
- 53rd (London) Medium Regt., R.A.,
Drill Hall, Offord Road, Barnsbury, N.1.
- 98th (Surrey and Sussex Yeomanry) (Queen Mary's) Army
Field Regt., R.A.,
Melbourne House, King's Avenue, Clapham Park.
- 97th (Kent Yeomanry) Army Field Regt., R.A.,
Drill Hall, Union Street, Maidstone.
Drill Hall, St. Peter's Lane, Canterbury.
Drill Hall, Ashford.
Yeomanry House, Bromley.
- 92nd (5th London) Field Regt., R.A.,
76 Lower Kennington Lane, S.E.11.
10 Beresford Street, Woolwich, S.E.18.
- 91st (4th London) Field Regt., R.A.,
Ennerdale Road, Lewisham, S.E.13.
- 90th (City of London) Field Regt., R.A.,
Artillery House, Handel Street, Bloomsbury, W.C.1.
- 86th (East Anglian) (Herts Yeomanry) Field Regt., R.A.,
Riding School, St. Albans.
28 St. Andrew's Street, Hertford.
Bearton Camp, Hitchin.
- 85th (East Anglian) Field Regt., R.A.,
Artillery House, The Green, Stratford, E.
South Street, Romford.
Brook Road, Grays.
- 65th (8th London) Field Regt., R.A.,
43 Eltham Road, Lee, S.E.12.
St. Margaret's Road, Plumstead, S.E.18.
- 64th (7th London) Field Regt., R.A.,
Drill Hall, High Street, Fulham, S.W.6.
Wood Lane, Shepherd's Bush, W.12.
Porteous Road, Paddington, W.2.
- 104th (Essex Yeomanry) Regt., Royal Horse Artillery,
Market Road, Chelmsford.
17 Stanwell Street, Colchester.
Tenterfield Road, Malden.
Ongar Road, Brentwood.
York Road, Southend-on-Sea.
- 11th Regt., Royal Horse Artillery,
Armoury House, City Road, E.C.1.

ALLIED SOCIETIES' ACTIVITIES AND SCHOOL NOTES

THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE LIVERPOOL SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Dr. G. S. Gordon, President of Magdalen College and Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, who opened this year's Liverpool School of Architecture Exhibition, expressed the conviction of every architect, if, alas, of few of our governors, when he said that the architect stood at the core of our social, economic and technical problems, and added that he could not have too liberal an education to prepare him for the ever-increasing demands upon his intelligence and imagination.

No one who is prepared to look further than the beguiling models and the attractive pictorial representations in the present exhibition should be left with any doubts that the Liverpool School does indeed provide this liberal education. Architecture is at once an art and a science, and, even more than the Latin and rhetoric of Scottish education, it is also one of the great "humanities." A student who has compared the bas-reliefs from Nimroud with the Ægina marbles, to whom the optical corrections of the Parthenon are something real and significant, and who has measured the west front of Wells or the great lantern at Ely, has already got something of philosophy; if at the same time he has begun to construct honestly and plan simply in terms of brick, stone and timber he can be said to have at least embarked upon the hard voyage of a liberal education.

From the drawings of the earlier years it is evident that the student does all these things, and before he enters his final year he has solved a series of successively more complex problems in which the needs, the likes and the dislikes of peers and paupers, councillors and caretakers, have all been pondered over. Meanwhile, colour has been appreciated as an inseparable element of form and the student has rejoiced in the freedom and the dangers of reinforced concrete.

In his third and fourth years the student has travelled, sometimes only across the narrow seas, but often to Sweden, Italy or Germany and sometimes to America; he has worked in an office and felt the strength that buildability gives to design and suffered also the healthy restraint of economy. From the office he returns to the School with the confidence born of seeing his diagrams turned into three dimensional brick and stone, and from his travels with a new conviction of the unity of the human spirit and the memory of the personal kindness of the foreigner.

In his fifth year all the student's powers are bent on a supreme test—a thesis consisting of the practical solution of an elaborate building programme: creative imagination and technical skill, understanding of contemporary life, and, not least, the man's character and organising powers are here exercised and tested to the full. In the present exhibition a series of projects which range from a university building for Cairo to a television station near Manchester, illustrate forcibly the art, the science and the humanity of architecture.

But for some students even this is not the end, for these there is a sixth year, an Indian Summer in which the architect's training reaches its logical conclusion in the study of town and country planning. Throughout his course the student has been accustomed to the idea that no building is sufficient unto itself, that it is merely part of a general landscape, whether urban or rural, in which it must be properly composed. Group planning is in evidence as early as the second

year, and in most of the theses the buildings have obviously been considered as parts of larger schemes and the problems of traffic and road planning taken into account.

It is an easy step then from the course for the degree or diploma in architecture to that for the certificate or diploma in civic design, and there are drawings which show that the architectural faculties of imaginative understanding and orderly arrangement find perhaps their highest and most useful expression in the planning of a complete environment: here, indeed, the architect stands visibly at the core of our social and economic problems, and is, moreover, equipped and ready to find an answer to them.

Behind the skilful presentation and the unsuccessful as well as successful designs lies the story of the hard endeavour, the imaginative nourishment and the intellectual sharpening that the course at the Liverpool School involves; this is the real meaning of the exhibition, an exhibition which provides a happy answer to the suggestion that the architect of to-day cannot have too liberal an education.

D. W.

Under the new constitution of the **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Architectural Association**, which came into force on 1 July, the area of the Association has been divided into four, and each area forms a Chapter of the Association, viz.: Western, Central, Eastern and Channel Islands.

Each Chapter has its own Executive Committee with a Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Joint Hon. Treasurer and Librarian.

The names and addresses of the Hon. Secretaries for three of the new Chapters are as follows:

Central Chapter: S. A. Gulliford [L.], 9 Portland Street, Southampton.

Eastern Chapter: A. C. Townsend [F.], 48 High Street, Gosport.

Western Chapter: W. G. Seaton [A.], Granville Chambers, Bournemouth.

The title of the Association will remain as at present, with the addition of the words "including the Channel Islands."

The **North Wales Architectural Society** held its annual general meeting on Saturday, 20 May last, in the Council Chamber of the University College of North Wales at Bangor. There was a good attendance.

The President, Mr. Herbert L. North [A.], was in the chair. His address to the meeting covered the activities of the Society during the year and he particularly stressed the work of national importance which societies such as ours were being called upon to undertake in our national schemes of defence.

Mr. S. Colwyn Foulkes [F.] was elected President for the ensuing year with Mr. G. A. Roberts [F.] Vice-President and Captain R. Parker, M.C. [A.] as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. Members of Council were also elected.

Prior to the meeting an excursion was made to the Menai Bridge, which is under repair. The resident engineer, Mr. Newton, conducted the party and a very interesting afternoon was spent.

Mr. E. Allan Heppenstall, a post-graduate student of the Leeds School of Architecture, Leeds College of Art, has been awarded the Bedford Scholarship by the **West Yorkshire Society of Architects**. The scholarship, which is of the annual value of £60, is awarded for travel and research in architecture.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

THE R.I.B.A. INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION

MAY 1939

The R.I.B.A. Intermediate Examination was held in London, Belfast, Edinburgh, Manchester, Newcastle and Plymouth, from 19 to 25 May 1939.

Of the 290 candidates examined 124 passed and 166 were relegated. The successful candidates are as follows:—

ADAMS, John Treadwell; ARNOLD, Godfrey William; BAILEY, Harold; BALKWILL, Roger Lanyon; BATES, Jack; BEBVEY, David Charles; BOAGEY (Miss), Alice Doreen; BOWDEN, Cyril; BOXALL, Reginald Arthur; BOYCE, Bernard Walter; BRENNER, Alexander; BREWINS, Cyril Dunford; BROCK, Jack Cecil; BROCKLESBY, Philip William; BROWN, Arthur Osmond; BUTLER-BOWDON, Anthony William; CLARIDGE, Bryan; CLARK, Fred; CLARKE, Joseph Edmund; CLOSS, Eric Reginald Stanley; CLOTHIER, Leonard Ernest; COLE, Eric George; CORK, Harold; COX, Neville Hilton; CRIPPS, Anthony Ivan; CURRY, Harold Walthen; DAHL, John Blom Seaton; DARLEY, Edward Armand; DAVISON, Thomas James Maurice; DOVEY, George Chadwick; DYER, Allan John; FILBY, Eric Thomas; FRENCH, Frederick William; GAINSFORD, Alan Peter; GARDNER, Roy; GIBBINS, William Leighton; GLOAG, Herbert Lawrence; GOAD, Leon Reginald; GOODY, Daniel George; GORDON, Alexander John; GREAVES, Ronald Alfred; GREEN, David William; GRIMES, James William Pleasant; HAM, Arthur John Lawrence; HARRISON, John Philip; HARVEY, Eric Gordon; HEMINGWAY, Richard; HEMMINGS, Lionel George; HILL, Derek John; HODNETT, Alfred Ernest; HORLOCK, Leonard Eric; HOULDER, Gerald Thomas; HOWELL, Owen John; HOWLES, Leslie Alfred; JAMES, Stanley

Edwin; JORDAN, Eric Robert; JUDGES, Alfred Charles; KENNEDY, John Frederick; KING, William Angus; KIRK, Stanley Lawrence; KITCHING, Percy; KNIGHT, Robert John; LAING, Anthony Robert; LEACH, Basil Frank; LE CLERC, William Percival; LEGGATT, Richard Walter; LEONARD, Hugh Henry Alison; LORING, Frank Derek; LOWDEN, Douglas James; LUDLOW, Basil Godfrey; MALKIN, Henry Frank; MANNING-SANDERS, David; MARRIOTT, Douglas Haig; MARSH, Frank Henry; MARTIN, Peter Hugh Cox; MOATE, Frank; MOORE, Robert Isaac; MORGAN, Raymond Curzon; MORRIS, Ivan Ernest; MOULIN, Louis Charles; MURGATROYD, Harry Ian; OSGOOD, Frederick Farrar; PAGE, Stanley Glasson; PANTER, Paul James Henry; PATON, Alfred George; PITT, Henry Stapleton; PITT, Roland Arthur; POORE, Michael Vivian Foster; POTTER, John Eric; READ, Jack Winter; REYNOLDS, Donald Albert Robert; ROBINSON, Benjamin; ROSTRON, Jerrold; RUSHWORTH, John Nutter; SCADDING, Ernest Frank; SCHUTTE, Conrad Henry Theodore; SEARLES, Donald Frederick; SIMPSON, Malcolm James; SLATER, John Moore; STURDY, John Francis; SUTER, Ronald Edwin; SUTTON, Robert William; TANCOCK, Bernard John; TATE, John Whysall; THIRSK, John; THOMPSON, Leslie; TUNSTILL, John Burt; TURNER, Raymond Whitby; TWIST, Kenneth Charteris; VERSINO, Andrea George; WAKEFIELD-BRAND, Charles Percy; WALKER, David Earle; WARD, Bernard Valentine; WARDLEY, Joseph Arnold; WARING, Arnold Shaw; WARNER, James William; WATSON-SMITH, Edward; WELLS, Roger Philip Basil; WESTAWAY, Ronald John; WHITE, Kenneth Charles; WHITEHOUSE, Joseph Derek; WILKINS, John Philip; WILLIAMS, Christopher Liddell; WILLIAMS, Frank Clifford.

STUDENTS AND PROBATIONERS

ELECTION OF STUDENTS R.I.B.A.

The following were elected as Students R.I.B.A. at the meeting of the Council held on 8 May 1939:

Auckland, Norman John, *Cardiff*. Brandt, Arnulf Johannes, *London*. Courtney-Laver, Leonard, *East Melbourne, Australia*. Crammond, Maurice McPherson, *Arbroath*. Davies, John Selby, *Cardiff*. Geach, Antony Douglas, *Wadebridge*. Handley-Read, Charles Harry Ralph, *Cambridge*. Howie, Francis Morrison, *Aberdeen*. Jaggard, William Thorold, *Palmerston North, New Zealand*. Jeffcoat, Stanley, *Buxton*. Jones, Roy Robert, *Scarborough*. le Sueur, Albert, *Faldouet, Jersey, C.I.* Maddocks, Alfred William, *Eastbourne*. Miller, Thomas Hayden, *Sheffield*. Robertson, Robert Meldrum, *Bellshill, Lanarkshire*. Rodham, Kenneth Lonsdale, *Newcastle-upon-Tyne*. Widdup, Frank Macfarlane, *Barnoldswick, Yorks*.

ELECTION OF STUDENTS R.I.B.A.

The following were elected as Students R.I.B.A. at the meeting of the Council held on 19 June 1939.

Blackmore, Stanley William, *London*. Braddock, Peter Houghton, *London*. Clokey, Thomas, *Liverpool*. Cullen, James Garroway, *Bathgate, W. Lothian*. Cutler, Anthony Thraves, *London*. Davis, Robert Howard Holmes, *Crewe*. Daykin, Alec, *Sheffield*. Duncan Stewart Johnston, *Brechin*. Finney, John Brett, *London*. Gilfillan (Miss), Janet Craig Stewart, *Glasgow*. Gill, Oswald, *Newcastle-upon-Tyne*. Goalen, Gerard Thomas, *Birkenhead*. Goldfinch, Arthur James, *West Kirby, Cheshire*. Goodbody, Hugh Nicholson, *Lisnagry, Co. Limerick*. Gray, James Ian Scott, *South Shields*. Gregory, Lione, Eric, *Blackpool*. Gupte, Manohar Gajanan, *Bombay*. Harvey, Robert Henry, *Coventry*. Herne, Ivor Arthur Chasemore, *Hampton, Middlesex*. Holland, Ralph Bertram, *London*. Holmes, Leonard, *Heage, Derbyshire*. Kenrick, John Byng, *Birmingham*. MacPhee, Ian Malcolm, *Blackburn*. McLauchlan, Stewart Farrington, *Rock*

Ferry, Cheshire. Montgomery, Thomas N., *Dublin*. Palmer, Brian Devereux, *Warwick*. Robinson, Alfred William, *Sheffield*. Spittal (Miss), Elizabeth, *Glasgow*. Suthar, Balashankar Tuljaram, *Bombay*. Taylor, Alexander Hamish, *Aberdeen*. Terry, John Ernest Christopher, *London*. Tetley, Patrick Ivor Delaval, *Plumpton, Sussex*. Tierney, Liam P., *Monkstown, Co. Dublin*. Ward, Harry Barker, *Liverpool*.

R.I.B.A. PROBATIONERS

The following were enrolled as Probationers of the Royal Institute during the month of June 1939:—

Barnes, William Kenneth Aussie, *London*. Bourne, Cecil John, *Worcester*. Bowman, Ronald Joseph, *Carlisle*. Brown, Donald Brooke, *Chester*. Chandler, Hugh Brian, *Sutton*. Chapman, Dennis Edward, *Cirencester*. Cleary, William Robert Castle, *London*. Clokey, Thomas, *Liverpool*. Cooper, Charles Geoffrey, *Little Steeping, Lincs*. Dannatt, James Trevor, *London*. Davies, John Hywel, *Wrexham*. Davies, William Roger, *London*. Davison, Percy, *London*. Dessau, Heinz, *Nottingham*. Dunton, George William, *London*. Evershed, Dudley Graham, *Bromley, Kent*. Finney, John Brett, *London*. Franchetti, Michael Angelo, *Glasgow*. Harris, Allan Wilson, *London*. Heath (Miss) Margaret Joyce, *Stafford*. Inshaw, John Richard, *Glasgow*. Jenkins (Miss) Leila Patricia Douglas, *Sutton Coldfield, Warks*. Johnson, Arthur Gilbert, *Hull*. Lambert, Martin James, *West Byfleet, Surrey*. Mayo, Joseph Leslie, *Shenfield, Essex*. Marks, Norman Richard, *Grimsbey*. Mitton, James Derek, *Bournemouth*. Mullis, Norman Charles, *Southend-on-Sea*. Oliver, Charles John Southall, *Outred, Matthew Jack, Wellington, New Zealand*. Patten, Ronald Arthur, *Hadleigh, Essex*. Scott, Henry Percy, *Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex*. Stewart, Duncan McKenzie, *Edinburgh*. Stott, Alan Howard, *Widnes*. Tierney, Liam Patrick, *Monkstown, Co. Dublin*. Todd, Philip Matthew, *Bristol*. Vanstone, Alan, *Swansea*. Watson, Donald Henry, *London*. Whittemore, James Ernest, *Wembley*.

Notices

ROME SCHOLARSHIP IN ARCHITECTURE

EXHIBITION OF FINAL COMPETITION DESIGNS

The designs submitted in the Final Competition for the Rome Scholarship in Architecture will be on exhibition at the Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place, London, W.1, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. (Saturday, 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.) from 20 to 28 July 1939.

The Scholarship is provided by the Royal Institute of British Architects, which makes a grant of £750 a year to the British School at Rome. It is awarded by the Faculty of Architecture of the British School at Rome, and is keenly contested annually by the most brilliant students in the country. The scholar is required to go to Rome to study for a period of two or three years at the British School at Rome.

This year the subject for the competition was "A National Aeronautical Club." Fourteen students, from the following Schools, were admitted to the Competition:

The School of Architecture, Edinburgh College of Art.
The Leeds School of Architecture, Leeds College of Art.
The Liverpool School of Architecture, University of Liverpool.

The School of Architecture, The Architectural Association, London.

The Bartlett School of Architecture, University of London.
The School of Architecture, The Victoria University, Manchester.

The School of Architecture, King's College, University of Durham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The School of Architecture, The Polytechnic, Regent Street, London.

EXHIBITION OF ARCHITECTS' WORKING DRAWINGS

17-28 JULY 1939

An Exhibition of Architects' Working Drawings will be held at the R.I.B.A. from Monday, 17 July to Friday, 28 July 1939 inclusive.

The Exhibition will be open daily between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. (Saturday 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.). It will include drawings lent by:—

Messrs. James & Bywaters & Rowland Pierce [FF.] (Norwich Town Hall).

Mr. A. B. Knapp-Fisher, Hon.A.R.C.A. [F.] (Church of St. Francis of Assisi, Ruxley Lane, Ewell, Surrey).

Messrs. Stanley Hall & Easton and Robertson [FF.] (The Research Laboratory of the Metropolitan Water Board).

Mr. Charles Holden, Hon.Litt.D. [F.] (London Passenger Transport Board, Arncliffe Station, Piccadilly Line).

Mr. T. S. Tait [F.] (The Glasgow Exhibition).

Mr. J. Hubert Worthington, O.B.E., M.A. [F.] (St. Catherine's College, Oxford).

The Exhibition will contain the drawings that a practising architect hands to a contractor, and some very comprehensive sets will be shown. A good idea will be given of the volume of work which must be done by an architect's office to produce a building.

A special Students' Evening will be held at the Exhibition on Wednesday, 19 July, at 8 p.m. All students are cordially invited to attend. It is hoped that the architects (or their

representatives) who have lent exhibits will be present in order to explain the drawings to the students. Refreshments will be provided, and no cards of admission are required.

REVISION OF THE R.I.B.A. SCALE OF CHARGES

In accordance with the terms of Byelaw 38, the Council published in the JOURNAL of 22 May, for the comments and criticisms of members, the proposal to add the following paragraph to Clause 4 of the Scale of Charges:—

Architects acting as Arbitrators are recommended to base their charges upon the total time occupied in dealing with a case at the rate of £2 2s. an hour exclusive of out-of-pocket expenses and other disbursements.

The Council, having considered the comments received, formally ratified the revision at their meeting on 19 June 1939.

MEMBERS AND PROFESSIONAL AFFIXES

The Council's attention has been called more than once to the practice among some members of adding a string of letters of doubtful value to the affix indicating membership of the Royal Institute on their letter paper.

This is a matter in which the Council obviously cannot dictate to members, and must trust to their good sense. It should be obvious, however, that the affix of a chartered body of high standing is weakened in effect by the addition to it of a string of mysterious designations, some of which probably indicate no more than the payment of an annual subscription.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members' subscriptions, Students' and Subscribers' contributions became due on 1 January 1939.

The amounts are as follows:—

Fellows	£5 5 0
Associates	£3 3 0
Licentiates	£3 3 0
Students	£1 1 0
Subscribers	£1 1 0

NOTE.—By a resolution of the Council dated 20 July 1931 the subscriptions of R.I.B.A. members in the transoceanic Dominions who are also members of Allied Societies in those Dominions are reduced to the following amounts as from 1 January 1932:—

Fellows	£3 3 0
Associates	£2 2 0
Licentiates	£2 2 0

Members who are already registered under the Architects' Registration Act 1931 are reminded that the annual renewal fee of 10s. became due on 1 January 1939, and should be forwarded DIRECT to the Registrar, The Architects' Registration Council, 68 Portland Place, W.1.

COMPOSITION OF SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Fellows, Associates and Licentiates of the Royal Institute may become Life Members by compounding their respective annual subscriptions on the following basis:—

For a Fellow by a payment of £73 10s. (70 guineas).

For an Associate or Licentiate by a payment of £44 2s. (42 guineas), with a further payment of £29 8s. (28 guineas) on being admitted as a Fellow.

In the case of members in the transoceanic Dominions who are members of Allied Societies in those Dominions, the following basis will operate :—

For a Fellow by a payment of £52 10s. (50 guineas).
For an Associate or Licentiate by a payment of £31 10s. (30 guineas), with a further payment of £21 (20 guineas) on being admitted as a Fellow.

Provided always that in the case of a Fellow or Associate the above compositions are to be reduced by £1 1s. per annum for every completed year of membership of the Royal Institute after the first five years, and in the case of a Licentiate by £1 1s. per annum for every completed year of membership of the Royal Institute, with a minimum composition of £6 6s. in the case of Fellows and £4 4s. in the case of Associates and Licentiates.

CLASSES OF RETIRED MEMBERS

Under the provisions of Byelaw No. 15 applications may be received from those members who are eligible for transfer to the class of "Retired Fellows," "Retired Associates," or "Retired Licentiates."

The Byelaw is as follows :—

"Any Fellow, Associate or Licentiate who has reached the age of fifty-five and has retired from practice may, subject to the approval of the Council, be transferred without election to the class of 'Retired Fellows,' 'Retired Associates' or 'Retired Licentiates,' as the case may be, but in such case his interest in, or claim against the property of, the Royal Institute shall cease. The amount of the annual subscription payable by such 'Retired Fellow,' 'Retired Associate' or 'Retired Licentiate' shall be £1 1s. od., or such amount as may be determined by resolution of the Council, excepting in the case of those who have paid subscriptions as full members for thirty years, and who shall be exempt from further payment. A 'Retired Fellow,' 'Retired Associate' or 'Retired Licentiate' shall have the right to use the affix of his class with the word 'Retired' after it, shall be entitled to receive the *JOURNAL* and *Kalendar*, shall be entitled to the use of the Library, and shall have the right to attend General Meetings, but shall not be entitled to vote. A 'Retired Fellow,' 'Retired Associate' or 'Retired Licentiate' shall not engage in any avocation which in the opinion of the Council is inconsistent with that of architecture. Nothing contained in this Byelaw shall affect the rights of persons who at the date of the passing of this Byelaw are members of the classes of 'Retired Fellows' and 'Retired Members of the Society of Architects.'"

LICENTIATES AND THE FELLOWSHIP

By a resolution of the Council passed on 4 April 1938, on and after 1 January 1939 all candidates whose work is approved will be required to sit for the examination, which will be the design portion of the Special Final Examination, and no candidates will be exempted from the examination.

NOTE.—The above resolution will not affect Licentiates of over 60 years of age applying under Section IV, Clause 4 (c) (ii) of the Supplemental Charter of 1925.

ASSOCIATES AND THE FELLOWSHIP

Associates who are eligible and desirous of transferring to the Fellowship are reminded that if they wish to take advantage of the election to take place on 4 December 1939 (overseas candidates 5 February 1940) they should send the necessary nomination forms to the Secretary R.I.B.A. not later than Saturday, 30 September 1939.

THE R.I.B.A. REGISTER OF ASSISTANTS SEEKING ENGAGEMENTS

Members and Students of the R.I.B.A. and the Allied and Associated Societies are reminded that a Register of Assistants seeking engagements is kept at the offices of the Royal Institute.

An assistant seeking employment should obtain from the Secretary R.I.B.A. the necessary form (to be filled up in duplicate) on which particulars must be given as to the applicant's age, qualifications, salary required, references, etc.

The application will hold good for one month from the date of receipt, after which it must be renewed on a fresh form unless the applicant has meanwhile obtained employment.

Architects, whether members of the R.I.B.A. or not, will be furnished on application with the names and addresses of persons desiring employment as assistants, improvers or clerks of works as the case may be. Architects applying for assistants should give the following particulars of their requirements: (1) whether temporary or permanent engagement; (2) junior or senior assistants; (3) particulars of duties and style of work; (4) salary offered.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATER USERS

Members are reminded that the National Association of Water Users, on which the R.I.B.A. is represented, exists for the purpose of protecting the interests of consumers.

Members who experience difficulties with water companies, etc., in connection with fittings are recommended to seek the advice of the Association. The address of the Association is 46 Cannon Street, London, E.C.4.

NEW BUILDING MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS

The Science Committee wish to draw attention to the fact that information in the records of the Building Research Station, Garston, Watford, is freely available to any member of the architectural profession, and suggest that architects would be well advised, when considering the use of new materials and preparations of which they have had no previous experience, to apply to the Director for any information he can impart regarding their properties and application.

OVERSEAS APPOINTMENTS

When members are contemplating applying for appointments overseas they are recommended to communicate with the Secretary R.I.B.A., who will supply them with any available information respecting conditions of employment, cost of living, climatic conditions, etc.

Competitions

The Council and Competitions Committee wish to remind members and members of Allied Societies that it is their duty to refuse to take part in competitions unless the conditions are in conformity with the R.I.B.A. Regulations for the Conduct of Architectural Competitions and have been approved by the Institute.

While, in the case of small limited private competitions, modifications of the R.I.B.A. Regulations may be approved, it is the duty of members who are asked to take part in a limited competition to notify the Secretary of the R.I.B.A. immediately, submitting particulars of the competition. This requirement now forms part of the Code of Professional

Practice in which it is ruled that a formal invitation to two or more architects to prepare designs in competition for the same project is deemed a limited competition.

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND: NEW CATHEDRAL

The General Trust Board of the Diocese of Auckland invite members of the New Zealand Institute of Architects resident in New Zealand or overseas to submit in competition designs for a new Cathedral.

Assessor: Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, R.A. [F.].

Premiums: £1,000, £400, £200 and £100.

Last day for submitting designs: 15 November 1939.

Last day for questions: 31 May 1939.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to (a) The General Trust Board, P.O. Box 652, Auckland, New Zealand, or (b) The Secretary R.I.B.A., 66 Portland Place, London, W.1. Deposit £1 1s.

DUDLEY: NEW MIXED SENIOR SCHOOL

The County Borough of Dudley Education Committee invite architects with offices in Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire to submit in competition designs for a new mixed senior school to be erected on a site at Halesowen Road, Netherton.

Assessor: Mr. S. N. Cooke [F.].

Premiums: £150, £100 and £50.

Last day for submitting designs: 31 August 1939.

Last day for questions: 30 June 1939.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to the Director of Education, Education Offices, St. James's Road, Dudley. Deposit £1 1s.

EDINBURGH: NEW EXHIBITION HALL

The Lord Provost, Magistrates and Council of the City of Edinburgh invite architects in association with consulting engineers, both resident in Great Britain, to submit in competition designs for an Exhibition Hall, to be erected on the site of the present Waverley Market, Princes Street, Edinburgh.

Assessor: Mr. Thomas S. Tait [F.].

Premiums: 500 guineas, 300 guineas and 200 guineas.

Last day for submitting designs: 31 August 1939.

Last day for questions: 15 February 1939.

GOSPORT: NEW SENIOR BOYS' SCHOOL

The Gosport Education Committee invite architects of British nationality to submit in competition designs for a new Senior School for 480 boys at Elson, Gosport.

Assessor: Mr. Julian Leathart [F.].

Premiums: £100, £50 and £25.

Last day for submitting designs: 11 November 1939.

Last day for questions: 19 August 1939.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to Mr. Geo. R. Walker, Secretary to the Education Committee, Education Offices, Stoke Road, Gosport, Hants. Deposit £1 1s.

HUTTON, NEAR PRESTON, LANCs: NEW POLICE HEADQUARTERS

The Lancashire Standing Joint Committee for Police and other purposes invite Chartered and/or Registered architects to submit in competition designs for a new General Police Headquarters and Training School to be erected at Hutton, near Preston.

Assessor: Sir Percy Worthington, Litt.D., F.S.A. [F.].

Premiums: £500, £400 and £300.

The last day for submitting designs has been extended to 1 August 1939.

Last day for questions: 28 January 1939.

MARGATE: NEW CIVIC CENTRE

The Corporation of the Borough of Margate invite architects of British nationality who are members of the R.I.B.A. or its Allied Societies to submit in competition designs for a new Civic Centre to be erected on a site overlooking Hartsdown Park, Margate.

Assessor: Mr. A. F. B. Anderson [F.].

Premiums: £500, £300 and £200.

Last day for submitting designs: 31 August 1939.

Last day for questions: 31 March, 1939.

OLDHAM: NEW ELECTRICITY OFFICES

The Corporation of the County Borough of Oldham invite registered architects to submit in competition designs for new Offices and Departmental Buildings for the Electricity Department to be erected on a site in Union Street.

Assessor: Professor R. A. Cordingley [F.].

Premiums: £400, £250 and £100.

Last day for submitting designs: 4 October 1939.

Last day for questions: 5 June 1939.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to Mr. F. L. Ogden, Borough Electrical Engineer, Greenhill Offices, Oldham. Deposit £2 2s.

WATFORD: NEW FIRE STATION

The Corporation of the Borough of Watford invite registered architects of British nationality to submit in competition designs for a new Fire Station.

Assessor: Mr. E. Maxwell Fry [F.].

Premiums: £150 and £75.

Last day for submitting designs: 31 August 1939.

Last day for questions: 14 July 1939.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to The Town Clerk, Municipal Offices, Watford. Deposit £1 1s.

COMPETITION RESULTS

DESIGN FOR AIR-RAID SHELTER: AIR-RAID PROTECTION INSTITUTE COMPETITION

1. Mr. G. Kilner and Mr. Clifford Smith (New Malden, Surrey).

Commended: Messrs. W. E. Edleston and G. L. Cadell [A.A.] (London).

Dr. Anant Pandya, D.Sc., and Mr. Frank W. Dark (London).

Mr. M. H. Briggs, B.Sc. (Coulsdon, Surrey).

Mr. A. C. V. Orrell (Purley, Surrey).

BLACKPOOL: FYLDE WATER BOARD OFFICES

1. Mr. Charles Button [L.] (Farnworth, Lancs).

2. Messrs. Gornall [L.] and Wainwright (St. Helens).

3. Messrs. John Swarbrick [F.] and Partner (Manchester).

EDINBURGH: NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL, TANFIELD

1. Messrs. D. Carr and W. F. Howard [A.A.] (Edinburgh).

2. Messrs. G. Reid and J. S. Forbes (Edinburgh).

MEMBERS' COLUMN

Owing to limitation of space, notices in this column are restricted to changes of address, partnerships vacant or wanted, practices for sale or wanted, office accommodation, and appointments vacant. Members are reminded that a column in the Advertisement Section of the Journal is reserved for the advertisements of members seeking appointments in architects' offices. No charge is made for such insertions and the privilege is confined to members who are definitely unemployed.

A list of members seeking positions with prospects of partnership is kept at the office of the R.I.B.A. and members who are desirous of having their names placed on this list are requested to send particulars of their qualifications, age, etc., to the Secretary R.I.B.A.

NEW PARTNERSHIP

MR. L. SYLVESTER SULLIVAN [F.], of Southern House, Cannon Street, E.C.4, has been joined in partnership by Mr. Basil M. Sullivan, C.I.E., O.B.E. [F.]. The partnership will be carried on at No. 1 South Square, Gray's Inn, London, W.C.1, from 14 July 1939. Telephone No.: Chancery 6919.

PRACTICE FOR SALE.

PRACTICE, established 1890, for sale owing to war disability. Average earnings £1,000. Premium £1,000.—Box 1179, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A.

NEW APPOINTMENT

MR. FRANK T. WINTER [F.] is relinquishing his practice at 2-3 Norfolk Street, W.C.2, upon taking up an appointment as Surveyor to Co-Partnership Tenants Limited and Mertham Park Tenants Limited, and his address will be Vivian House, 166 Hampstead Way, N.W.11, as from 1 July. The practice is being taken over by Messrs. Jenkins & Curry [A.A.], of 6 Old Bond Street, W.1.

COLLABORATION WANTED

ARCHITECT [A.], young, with temporarily insufficient work in own practice (mainly domestic, shops, exhibition—just returned from working on New York Fair—interiors, etc.), would like opportunity to collaborate with others.—Box No. 3069, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A.

SENIOR ASSISTANT REQUIRED

ARCHITECT'S Senior Assistant required immediately, with hospital experience.—Apply Hugo R. Bird [F.], St. Thomas' Gate, Brentwood, Essex.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION TO LET

A FELLOW wishes to let one room in his suite of offices at Westminster. Rent 100 guineas per annum, including heating, lighting and cleaning.—Apply Box 3739, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A.

WELL-LIT, partly furnished ground floor office to let in the Temple. Suitable for young architect or draughtsman who will be willing, if required, to render assistance to a member of the Institute. Rent £60 per annum, inclusive of lighting and heating.—Apply Box 2969, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A.

PARTIAL use fully equipped office, W.C.1., in premier position offered by one architect to another.—Box 1279, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

MR. ERIC MENDELSON [F.] has moved to 24 Highpoint, North Hill, Highgate, N.6. Telephone: Mountview 6510.

MR. CHARLES SYKES [A.] has changed his offices to 7 Hobart Place, Eaton Square, S.W.1. Sloane 1747.

Architects' and Surveyors' Approved Society

ARCHITECTS' ASSISTANTS' INSURANCE FOR THE NATIONAL HEALTH AND PENSIONS ACTS

Architects' Assistants are advised to apply for the prospectus of the Architects' and Surveyors' Approved Society, which may be obtained from the Secretary of the Society, 113 High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

The Society deals with questions of insurability or the National Health and Pensions Acts (for England) under which, in general, those employed at remuneration not exceeding £250 per annum are compulsorily insurable.

In addition to the usual sickness, disablement and maternity benefits, the Society makes grants towards the cost of dental or optical treatment (including provision of spectacles).

No membership fee is payable beyond the normal Health and Pensions Insurance contribution.

The R.I.B.A. has representatives on the Committee of Management, and insured Assistants joining the Society can rely on prompt and sympathetic settlement of claims.

Architects' Benevolent Society

66 PORTLAND PLACE, W.1

FOUNDED 1850

The object of the Society is to afford assistance to architects, architects' assistants, and their widows and children by means of grants and pensions.

Subscriptions and donations of any amount are urgently needed. An annual subscriber of £1 is. is entitled to recommend annually two applicants for relief.

A.B.S. INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

THE ARCHITECTS' SPECIAL MOTOR CAR INSURANCE AT LLOYD'S

In conjunction with a firm of Lloyd's Insurance Brokers the Architects' Benevolent Society's Insurance Committee have devised a Special Motor Car Policy for Architects. This policy and the special advantages to be gained from it are available only to members of the Royal Institute of British Architects and its Allied and Associated Societies.

Special features include:

1. Agreed values. In the event of a total destruction or loss, insured value is agreed as the replacement value.
2. A cumulative no-claim bonus from 15 per cent., rising to 33½ per cent. in the fourth year.
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(The rates shown do not apply to cars garaged in London and Glasgow and Lancashire manufacturing towns; rates for these areas will be quoted on application.)

All enquiries with regard to the Special Motor Car Policy for Architects should be sent to the Secretary, A.B.S. Insurance Department, 66 Portland Place, W.1.

It is desired to point out that the opinions of writers of articles and letters which appear in the R.I.B.A. JOURNAL must be taken as the individual opinions of their authors and not as representative expressions of the Institute.

Members sending remittances by postal order for subscriptions of Institute publications are warned of the necessity of complying with Post Office Regulations with regard to this method of payment. Postal orders should be made payable to the Secretary R.I.B.A. and crossed.

Members wishing to contribute notices or correspondence must send them addressed to the Editor not later than the Tuesday prior to the date of publication.

Back numbers of the JOURNAL can be obtained at the price of 1s. 9d., including postage throughout the world. For orders of more than six copies discounts are given. Orders must be prepaid.

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